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BIRTHS.

At the Mount Austin Hotel, on 18th March, the wife of F. A. WATLEN, of a son. [675]
On 22nd March, 1895, at Coombe Royal, Magazine Gap, Hongkong, the wife of E. V. BREMAN, I. M. Customs of China, of a son. [700]

MARRIAGE.

On the 9th inst., at St. Michael and All Angels', Stoke Newington, by the Rev. D. Davenport, M.A., FREDERICK WILSON, of Manila, Philippines, second son of Frederick Wilson, 7, Kyverdale Road, N., to ETHEL MARY (Sister), eldest daughter of T. O. Escott, 33, Kyverdale Road, N.

DEATHS.

At Tientsin, on the 23rd February, ISABELLA QUIGLEY, the beloved wife of John Watt Jameson. [701]

At Edinburgh, N.B., on the 8th of March, 1895, JAMES ALEXANDER TAYLOR, aged 52 years.

At his residence, No. 10, Peking Road, Shanghai, on the 12th of March, 1895, ROBERT FRANCIS, in the 69th year of his age.

At No. 3, Hongkong Road, Shanghai, on the 20th of March, 1895, WILCOCK GEORGE MOORE.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 15th February arrived, per M. M. steamer *Ozus*, on the 21st March (34 days); the English mail of the 22nd February arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Peking*, on the 23rd March (29 days); and the Canadian mail of the 4th March arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of China*, on the 27th March (23 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Russian press, a Reuter's telegram states, demand the occupation of Manchuria.

Mr. A. J. Leach, Q.C., at present Acting Attorney-General of Hongkong, has been appointed to a Puisne Judgeship in the Straits.

M. Rousseau, the new Governor-General of Indo-China, arrived at Saigon by the M. M. steamer *Ozus* on the 17th inst., and was to leave in a few days for Tonkin.

Vessels sailing under the French flag are from the 1st prox. to be allowed a bounty of sixty cents per ton on all cargo exported abroad from ports in Tonkin or Annam.

At the annual meeting of ratepayers held at Shanghai on the 12th inst. a motion for the establishment of a crematorium was carried by forty-seven votes to thirty-two.

Mr. Detring resumed charge of the Customs at Tientsin on the 12th inst. For several months he had been detached on special service with the Viceroy in connection with the war.

Der Ostasiatische Lloyd states that H. E. Chang Chih-tung has been authorised by the Tsungli Yamén to raise a loan of £1,000,000, through Mr. Finch, C.E., which has been placed with a Belgian bank.

It is stated, according to a Reuter's telegram, that arrangements are already in progress in London for the issue of another Chinese loan (in gold) to meet the anticipated demand for the war indemnity.

The general meeting of the Shanghai Tug-boat Company, Limited, was held on the 16th inst. The reports and accounts were passed. A final dividend of Tls. 7 was declared, making 16 per cent. for the year.

According to a Reuter's telegram of the 19th inst., the correspondent of the *Times* at St. Petersburg states that the whole of the Russian Mediterranean squadron proceeds to the Pacific in readiness for eventualities.

The general meeting of shareholders in the Shanghai Waterworks Company, Limited, was held on the 21st inst. at the Shanghai Club. The report and accounts were adopted and the usual routine business was transacted.

The *London Gazette* has the following notification:—Major-General G. D. Barker, C.B., commanding the Troops in China and Hongkong, to be Lieutenant-General, vice Sir D. C. Druy-Lowe, K.C.B., Colonel 17th Lancers, retired.

The new Japanese cruiser *Tatsuta*, which lay for several months at Aden, has, we learn, arrived at Yokosuka, Japan, and may now be reckoned on the strength of the Japanese Navy. She steamed straight through from Colombo to Japan.

The annual meeting of the shareholders in the Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company was held at the Shanghai Club on the 11th inst. and a final dividend of Tls. 11, making Tls. 17 in all, per share and a bonus of Tls. 3 per share were declared.

It is reported, according to the *Hyogo News*, that Admiral Fremantle, having no other immediate command in prospect, will not return home after handing over charge of the British squadron to Vice-Admiral Buller, but will remain for a time to watch the course of events.

The Peking correspondent of the *Mercury* writes:—The audience of the Foreign Ministers, with the Secretaries, Interpreters, and all men in brass-button array, passed off satisfactorily on the 14th February. Col. Denby, U.S. Minister, as *doyen*, delivered the speech. This was the Chinese New Year call on the Emperor. The day was cloudy and windy and the streets very muddy. The host felt far from hilarious in his present unfortunate trouble.

At the annual meeting of shareholders in the Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Company, held on the 18th inst. at the offices of the General Agent, Mr. Geo. McBain, a final dividend of 30 per cent, making 50 per cent. for the year 1893, was approved and passed.

The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Registrar-General of Hongkong, who has for some time past filled the appointment of Acting Colonial Secretary, has now been offered and has accepted the dual appointment of Colonial Secretary and Registrar-General.

A special telegram to the *Daily Press* announces the death of General Fielding of cholera at Bangkok. General the Hon. William Albert Fielding, Inspector General of Recruiting, with Mrs. Fielding, was on a tour in the Far East. They arrived at Singapore from Java, and after spending some time as the guests of the Sultan of Johore, left on the 12th instant for Bangkok.

A strike of cargo coolies has occurred in Hongkong owing to the enforcement of by-laws requiring the registration of common lodging houses. The object of the by-laws is to prevent overcrowding and to secure the observance of sanitary conditions. The keepers, however, have persuaded the men that a poll tax is intended, and that the measure will certainly lead to an increase in the amount of rent now charged. The rent the coolies pay is at present from twenty to twenty-five cents a month. The strike is necessarily causing some inconvenience in connection with shipping, but it is reduced to a minimum by the employment of volunteers from the garrison and convicts from the gaol, and it is expected that the affair will not be of long duration. The first cessation of work occurred on Saturday last and probably next Saturday will see the men anxious to resume, as their resources will not enable them to hold out for long.

Startling news has been received from Japan during the past week. On the 24th inst., while H.E. Li Hung-chang was returning to his temporary residence from the peace conference at Shimonoseki, an attempt was made to assassinate him. He received a pistol shot in the face, but although the bullet, according to the latest report, had not been extracted, the wound was said not to be a dangerous one, and the patient was doing well. The Mikado and his Ministers have expressed the most profound regrets. Meantime the war is being actively prosecuted and operations have been opened in the south; the Pescadores having been occupied, after a bombardment of Makung, as a basis of operations against Formosa. The port of Tamsui has been closed by torpedoes. At Amoy also the authorities have taken alarm, and defensive measures are being taken there which will probably include the closing of the port. In the North Japanese war vessels are actively searching vessels for contraband of war. The actual headquarters of the Japanese army are also to be removed from Japan to China. Prince Kawamatsu, the Commander-in-Chief, has received orders to proceed to China and take supreme command of the forces there, being given by the Emperor, who will remain at Hiroshima, which it is understood, will still nominally be regarded as headquarters. That this move should be taken at the present time seems to prove that there is no expectation among Ministers of the negotiations for peace proving successful.

THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF LI HUNG-CHANG.

The attempted assassination of Li HUNG-CHANG at Shimonoseki will be keenly regretted by the Japanese Government. Special precautions had been taken to prevent anything in the nature of a hostile demonstration. At Moji and Boka, we learn from Kobe papers received yesterday, the Peace Preservation Law had been put in force for twenty-one days, commencing on the 18th inst., and on the actual scene of the negotiations no doubt everything that could possibly be thought of was done to prevent any lawless act that could annoy the Chinese Minister or dishonour the reputation of Japan. By the Peace Preservation Law the police are provided with greatly increased powers; nothing can be published without being submitted to censorship, nor can any meeting, however small, be held without giving notice to the police; it is illegal also to carry sword-sticks or any weapon of offence unless permission be specially granted, and all strangers are subject to police supervision. It would appear, however, that some young lunatic of the *soshi* class has succeeded in evading all the precautions taken and has inflicted a wound upon the Chinese Envoy which may prove fatal. It may safely be affirmed that no single event in the whole history of the war has caused such pain to the Mikado and his responsible advisers as this mad attack on the veteran statesman who had come from China to sue for peace. It was believed by foreigners in Japan that it was not intended the peace negotiations should have a successful issue, that some pretext would be found for breaking them off, and that Li would have to return to China as unsuccessful as his predecessors, for Japan is not at present in a humour to stay her victorious march whatever terms China may offer. But if it was Japan's policy and intention to bring the negotiations to nought it was the more important, if it be allowable to use the comparative degree in such a matter, that there should be no failure in treating the Chinese Envoy with personal courtesy and consideration, for a contrary course would be calculated to alienate the sympathy of the foreign powers and to damage Japan's just claim to be admitted to the comity of nations on an equal footing. And now a hairbrained youth has shot and well-nigh killed the Envoy. When full particulars of the unfortunate affair are received it will be found, we doubt not, that the Government failed in no point of its duty. Attacks on distinguished strangers may take place in any country, and, indeed, there are not wanting instances in which even monarchs have been the target of would-be assassins while they were the guests of a foreign court. Such an event must always be the cause of deep pain to the country where it occurs, but there are reasons which will make the attack on Li HUNG-CHANG specially painful to the Japanese Government and nation. Throughout the war there has been a conspicuous desire on the part of Japan to conduct the operations according to the strictest rules of civilised warfare, and the soldiery have, with isolated exceptions, loyally acted up to the standard set before them, establishing thereby a reputation for humanity that has been a source of surprise to many observers. The unfortunate attack on Li HUNG-CHANG, however, serves to remind us in an unpleasant manner of the existence of this dangerous class the *soshi*, in which patriotism and vanity run into what is little removed from simple savagery, breaking out as it does in such outrages as the one under notice, the

attempted assassination of the present Czar of Russia when as the Czar-witch he was, an honoured national guest, the assassination of Viscount MORI, and the attempted assassination of Count O'KUMA. The *soshi* have not been guilty of such diabolical outrages as the anarchists in some European countries, but their existence is undoubtedly a blot on the fair name of Japan. It is unfortunate that the blot should have been brought out so plainly at a crisis like the present.

THE SILVER QUESTION AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FAR EAST.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD's paper on the silver question, read before the Royal Colonial Institute on the 12th ultimo, displayed the keen business insight and thorough grasp of his subject which always characterises the writer. He showed how British goods in this part of the world were being supplanted by Indian and local manufactures, how the closing of the Indian mints had offered a further bounty to manufacturing enterprise in China and Japan at the expense of India, and how even the European markets themselves are threatened with the competition of goods from China and Japan, which countries Mr. WHITEHEAD considers have a vast industrial future before them. The views expressed by the hon. gentleman are for the most part those generally entertained by Europeans in the Far East. Yet there are one or two points on which we should be inclined to join issue with him. He says, for instance, that "although the transfer of some of our manufacturing industries to Oriental countries, where the conditions are suitable, might sooner or later have taken place, it is, nevertheless, true that but for the great divergence between gold and silver, and the inadequacy of our monetary system, the transfer would probably have been delayed for several generations." Is this really probable? Can it be supposed, even if the silver question had never been heard of, that an enterprising, intelligent, and progressive nation like the Japanese would have gone on buying from other nations what they found they could make for themselves?

As Mr. LESLIE PROBYN said in the course of the discussion which followed the reading of Mr. WHITEHEAD's paper, commodities in the course of trade are changed for each other, and not for the gold and silver by means of which the changes are effected. In the long run trade would adapt itself to any standard and to any ratio between different metals. Sudden changes are of course disturbing, and when they occur a temporary advantage may be given to one country at the expense of another. England and all other gold monometallic countries have been for years past suffering from the impediments thrown in the way of their trade with silver countries by the divergence between the white and yellow metals and the consequent uncertainty of exchange; but, granting all that, it nevertheless seems to us a fallacy to suppose that the adoption of bimetallicism in Europe and America would permanently or in any material degree retard the development of manufacturing industry in Japan, China, or Asia generally. As soon as a savage or semi-civilized nation begins to wake up and adapt itself to the ways of other nations, it is only a question of time as to when it will begin to make things for itself that it has hitherto been accustomed to buy from others. But, as it does so, it develops new wants, and its trade with other countries continues to grow instead of falling off. It is like Hux-

BERT SPENCER's doctrine that the highest altruism is the highest egoism and vice versa. The policy of Great Britain is not to keep the nations in darkness in order that they may be compelled to buy from us, but to enlighten them in order that they may buy more abundantly. But even if it were possible to keep the Asiatic nations stationary, bimetallicism would be ineffective for the purpose. The effect of the adoption of that system at the old ratio would be, not an enhancement of the cost of production in silver countries, but a rise in gold prices. At least that is the effect some at all events of the bimetallic party desire. As Mr. SCHMIDT expressed it at the meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute, "What Europe required was a higher level of prices." Now a higher level of gold prices in Europe, silver prices in the Far East remaining the same, would not retard the development of manufacturing industry in the Far East, for the conditions in the latter would remain practically unaltered.

The rupture of the bimetallic tie was one of the greatest follies ever perpetrated in the history of the world, and the re-establishment of the tie is now the most pressing need of commerce. It is well, however, to form some clear conception of what would be accomplished by bimetallicism and why it is desired. Any idea that the progress of one country could thereby be retarded for the profit of another may be dismissed as altogether visionary. What we want, and what would benefit all countries alike, is a stable medium of exchange. A measure of value is in principle very much the same thing as a measure of length. It does not make any difference to the value of a piece of cloth whether it is sold by the yard or the metre, but if trade is to be conducted on a healthy basis it is essential that it should be known what the standard of measurement is and that the standard should not vary in length from day to day. It is the same with gold and silver; the trade of the world is conducted partly in one metal, and partly in the other, and it is important that their relative values should be fixed as precisely as the relative lengths of a yard and a metre. What the ratio may be is a matter of comparative indifference, except to special and temporary interests for trade would in the long run adapt itself to any ratio that might be decided upon, but that a fixed ratio is desirable seems so self-evident that it is surprising any one can be found to dispute the proposition.

AMALGAMATION OF THE OFFICES OF COLONIAL SECRETARY AND REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

The Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, who has been promoted to the office of Colonial Secretary, is a conscientious and energetic officer and his services well merited recognition. So much must be admitted even by those who, like ourselves, doubt the wisdom of selecting the incumbent of the office of Colonial Secretary direct from the ranks of the local service. It would be well, we think, that the holder of that important office should have had experience in more than one colony, and we should have been glad to see Mr. STEWART LOCKHART follow in the footsteps of Sir CECIL SMITH and rise in the service through the Colonial Secretaryship of another colony. That is looking at the matter from a purely impersonal point of view. On personal grounds every one will be glad that such a popular officer is to remain with us. The Secretary of State has conferred the appointment of Colonial Secretary of this colony upon him, and though we may be of

opinion that both the service and Mr. LOCKHART would have benefited had he been allowed a wider sphere in which to gain experience we do not doubt that he will by hard work and care make up for the deficiency and fill his high office with credit to himself and profit to the colony.

Now that the Registrar-General and Protector of Chinese has been appointed Colonial Secretary it is to be hoped that the expediency of abolishing the former office, except in so far as registration work is concerned, may be recognised. The registration work might be performed by any intelligent clerk, either working independently or attached to another department. The chief object of the office as at present constituted is described with approximate correctness by the secondary title, that of Protector of Chinese. It was this that gave to the office its dignity and importance and in virtue of which the holder has usually filled a seat in the Legislative Council. The Registrar-General was supposed to act as an intermediary between the Chinese community and the Government; native petitions passed through his hands, were translated in his office, and were forwarded to the Colonial Secretary's office with his remarks and recommendations; and it was he who was supposed to keep the Government informed of the drift of native sentiment and opinion. With the appointment of Mr. STEWART LOCKHART to be Colonial Secretary the *raison d'être* of the inferior office disappears. To retain Mr. STEWART LOCKHART as Registrar-General in order that he may inform Mr. STEWART LOCKHART as Colonial Secretary what the Chinese think on this or that matter, or to translate and annotate petitions in one office to prepare them for consideration in the other, is an absurdity.

The maintenance of the office of Registrar-General and Protector of Chinese has always been looked upon by a considerable portion of the European community as of doubtful expediency. Various reasons, some of undeniable weight, have, however, been advanced for keeping it up, the principal of which was that the Governor and Colonial Secretary being as a rule unacquainted with the Chinese language and the habits and modes of thought of the people, it was necessary to have a responsible and specially trained officer as intermediary and adviser. That reason is now wiped out, for the two offices of Colonial Secretary and Registrar-General are under the new arrangement to be held by one and the same individual. It may be advanced on the other side that when it becomes necessary to appoint a successor to Mr. STEWART LOCKHART as Colonial Secretary—which we hope may not be for many years to come—the new incumbent may be a stranger to the colony and all the old reasons for the maintenance of the office of Registrar-General and Protector of Chinese will revive. In reply to that we would point out that the office of Assistant Colonial Secretary will presumably always be held by a locally trained officer and that he might serve as the intermediary just as well as another officer bearing the title of Registrar-General. It should perhaps be mentioned that the Registrar-General has duties to discharge in connection with the issue of certain licences, the protection of women and children, and other matters, but these could be transferred to the Police or other departments. The only reason, indeed, that we can conceive of for maintaining the office of Registrar-General as a separate department now is that it provides an appointment for a cadet as Assistant Registrar-General. The amalgamation of offices with a view to economy carries rather

a taking sound with it, but if it means, not abolition of offices, but the holding of plural offices, each with an Assistant Head, it may be found that instead of reducing the staff it will increase it.

REGISTRATION OF SERVANTS.

The idea that registration of servants would prove a panacea for all domestic troubles seems to have taken some little hold on the popular imagination. How the beneficent effect could be produced no one seems to care to inquire. Just as some persons suffering from real or fancied ailments will eagerly swallow any quack nostrum that may be brought to their notice, although they know nothing of its character or of its operation, so Hongkong householders, or some of them, want to try the remedy for the servant trouble recommended by the Captain Superintendent of Police, without pausing to inquire whether it would prove any remedy at all. If Mr. MAY can elaborate any system which will afford relief he will deserve the thanks of every member of the community, but, great as is our respect for that capable and energetic officer, we think the task is altogether beyond his power. He seems to think that, if he were given a free hand, he would be able to guarantee the politeness, the honesty, and the efficiency of all the servants in the colony. That is a thing that no Government in the world has yet attempted, much less accomplished, and if Mr. MAY attempts it he will find that, while he may be held as a heaven sent deliverer as long as expectation lasts, as soon as the non-fulfilment of the expectation becomes apparent he will be the best abused man in the colony and every master or mistress who has any trouble with a servant will put it all down to him. All that could reasonably be expected from registration would be that it might enable the police more readily to put their hands upon a man who was wanted on a criminal charge, but in any other respect it would necessarily be foredoomed to failure. An examination of some of the cases that have been mentioned will serve to show how ineffective registration would be to work a cure. A correspondent in our yesterday's issue mentioned a case in which a cook who had received notice of dismissal deliberately prisoned his mistress's pet dog. That is a favourite form of revenge amongst native servants against European employers, because proof of the offence is almost impossible. Registration would make the proof no easier. If the offence could be brought home to a man the Police Magistrates would in ordinary course inflict a very severe penalty for it, but they cannot convict on mere suspicion; neither could the Registrar of Servants, if such an officer were appointed, deal with a servant's registration ticket on mere suspicion, however well founded the suspicion might be believed to be. Another case that has been mentioned is that of "a peculating house-boy, who, in spite of the efforts of the police, is still at large in the colony, and probably will continue to rob his employers so long as there is no means of checking his career. His first employer had reason to suspect him of dishonesty, but although a careful watch was kept upon him he was never caught red-handed in any crime. He was ultimately dismissed. Some time after he was seen at the Murray Barracks. The officer in whose service he was disregarded the warning given him and in a month's time was

robbed of a gold watch. The boy was suspected and charged, but nothing could be proved against him. When the next regiment came he again found employment at Murray Barracks. His new master lost a very large sum of money. The boy once more made the acquaintance of the police, but, as usual, there was not sufficient evidence to connect him with the crime, and he was allowed to go at large. He is still in employment in the colony." We are told that "under a system of registration it would have been practically impossible for this boy to find employment after his first dismissal," but we are not told why it would have been impossible. As a matter of fact registration would not and could not have made one particle of difference. As long as nothing can be proved against a man he is entitled by law to be regarded as innocent, and it is very certain that the Legislative Council will never alter the law in that respect. A law to the effect that one class of the community, domestic servants to wit, might be convicted on suspicion only and be punished by being deprived of the opportunity of obtaining employment would be an outrage on justice, and even if we could conceive the possibility of such a law passing the local legislature it would certainly not receive the sanction of the Secretary of State. An employer who suspects a servant of dishonesty naturally dismisses him, as he has a right to do, but if the case does not go beyond suspicion his power stops there. It was held by the late Sir JOHN SMALKE, Chief Justice, when the old registration law was in force, that to write on a servant's registration ticket that he had been dismissed on suspicion of dishonesty was libellous. The same rule would hold good under any new system of registration, so that in the absence of proof of crime a servant would have just the same chance of obtaining employment, neither more nor less, that he has now. Reference has been made to the licensing of public chair and jinricksha coolies and to the improvement which it is claimed has been effected in that class by the system. So far as the argument from analogy goes we should say the reference to public chair and jinricksha coolies tells rather against than for a system of registration as applied to domestic servants. If the police have achieved such a relatively small measure of success in exercising control over the chair and jinricksha coolies what measure of success could they hope to achieve in respect of housecoolies, boys, cooks, and amahs? The number of licences issued for the drawers or bearers of public vehicles is limited, and as the number of applicants is greater than the number of licences to be issued, it is possible to make a selection and in that way something may be done towards getting the best men offering. But we suppose no one would propose that the number of domestic servants should be limited, or that employers should be restricted in their choice to certain men and women selected by the police. If anything of that kind were attempted employers would have a very bad time of it and would soon begin to sigh for the greater liberty they at present enjoy. As to this to be said, that if it does not, there can do no harm, except that it will involve some little trouble, and if Mr. MAY is anxious to put his views to the test of experiment and the public are willing to give his system a trial we see a very great reason why it should not be done. Those who believe that registration will transform the character of their servants will, however, be very much disappointed with the result and Mr. MAY will lay up for himself a fruitful source of trouble and disgust.

CREMATION.

The resolution of the Shanghai ratepayers to establish a crematorium in the Model Settlement may excite some little interest in the subject here. Forty-seven voted for the resolution and thirty-two against, which may probably be taken as indicative of the relative strength of the cremation and anti-cremation parties not only in Shanghai but in other similarly constituted communities in which ignorant prejudice and foolish sentiment are subordinated to sound common sense. Not that we wish to stigmatise all the opponents of cremation as ignorant, prejudiced, or foolishly sentimental, but theirs is by the nature of the case the side which ignorance, prejudice, and sentiment founded on custom support. Burial has always been the mode of disposing of the dead amongst Christian nations and the mass of the people believe it to be the correct way, although not one in a thousand would be able to formulate any grounds for their belief, and few will undertake an independent inquiry as to why an old custom should be altered. In communities such as those of the Far East, however, consisting for the most part of specially selected men of intelligence and education, public opinion is more advanced, and whereas in England the number of ratepayers who would actively favour cremation would be small, at Shanghai we find there is a substantial majority in favour of it. Public opinion in Hongkong would probably be divided in about the same proportion as regards the relative merits of the two systems, but on the practical question as to whether in the particular circumstances of the colony it was desirable to incur the expense of establishing a crematorium the result might be somewhat different. In this colony the European cemeteries do not constitute a nuisance or a danger to health, their location being at a safe distance from any residences and the soil as well adapted for the reception of the dead as could be found anywhere. And it is only with reference to the Europeans that the question has been raised at Shanghai, it not being in contemplation that the Chinese would use the crematorium, at all events for a long time to come, and of the Europeans a considerable proportion will probably continue to favour the old form of burial. Mr. J. L. SCOTT, speaking on behalf of the Municipal Council, said he thought the Council should consider only the practical side of the question, that so far no proof had been given that the present cemetery was prejudicial to the health of the community, that the financial result of the establishment of a crematorium was uncertain, and that the Council saw no reason to make any change in the present mode of burial. That would perhaps be the view taken by the Hongkong Government, but Shanghai is more fortunate than this colony inasmuch as the ratepayers in the Settlement are able to dictate how their money shall be spent; they rule themselves instead of being ruled by officials, and if they choose to have a crematorium, or anything else, and are prepared to vote the money for it, no one can say them nay.

The general arguments used at the Shanghai meeting in favour of cremation were of the ordinary description, with which our readers are doubtless familiar, and we do not propose to refer to them in detail except in so far as they specially touch the local conditions. J. BUCHANAN, who moved that the Municipal Council be authorised to erect a crematorium and that a sum sufficient for that purpose be added to the budget, said that in a few years the new cemetery would be the centre of a large village, and that in a place like Shanghai,

where the tide fills the soil with water twice in every twenty-four hours, and the earth is riddled by land crabs and earthworms, it did not seem to him that he had overstated the case in what he had said as to the dangers of the present system. As to the danger arising from Chinese coffins scattered over the fields, he said there was usually a quantity of quicklime and charcoal placed in Chinese coffins, they were hermetically sealed by a double lid, the seams were covered with glue, and, according to Sir HENRY THOMPSON, placing the body in quicklime nearly approached in value to the perfection of cremation. At the same time he regretted that the Chinese had given up, except in the case of Buddhist priests, the practice of burning the dead. As to the cost of a crematorium, the speaker said he was not in a position to give any estimate; a Siemens' furnace cost £200, but whatever the cost they should have the best furnace that could be procured and "the expense" would be saved to the community, if not "directly to the Council, by a diminished cost of funerals. At present we pay some" Tls. 90. I shall be disappointed if the cost "of burning a body exceeds Tls. 40 or Tls. 50." Here we should think Mr. BUCHANAN was unduly sanguine, for it is the pomp and display of funerals that makes them expensive, rather than the mere cost of the coffin, and the adoption of burning instead of burial would not necessarily make any alteration in that respect. Mr. G. W. NOEL, who seconded the resolution, said:—

It is argued by many that it would be next to useless to introduce cremation here, as the natives would never take to it, and the comparatively few foreigners who might make it an unnecessary expense. Have the natives, may I ask, taken kindly, and at once, to any of the Western ideas—telegraphs, railways, roads, carriages, etc.? No, but they are rapidly seeing the advantages of them, and as soon as they are convinced of the practicability and economy of cremation, he would be a bold man who would say they would not take to that also. Think of the vast sums of money spent on land for graves, to say nothing of the waste of that land, and on the passage of coffins from place to place, that would be saved. And when the country comes to be opened up, and railways and roads constructed, do you think the Government will treat the grave mounds, and their contents, with which the country is strewn, with the same respect and consideration that purchasers of land here have been accustomed to do? Certainly not, and when they see the same thing happen here that has happened in hundreds of instances in our little island, graves desecrated and ancestral remains dumped into the most convenient and handy spot, or else rudely burnt, they will appreciate the advantages of cremation as well as any one else. China is still slumbering, but she is now being roughly shaken and will soon awake. It is for that awakening we must be prepared, and it is the rising generation we must aim at educating with object lessons, and the sooner those of practical utility are introduced the better.

We wish we could share Mr. NOEL's views as to the rapid advance of the Chinese, but unfortunately the people generally are opposed to improvements of all kinds, and their views on the particular question of the disposal of the dead are not likely to be modified in any degree by the example of a few foreigners at Shanghai adopting the principle of cremation. Those who voted in favour of the resolution must be presumed to have done so simply as a matter of principle, because they believe cremation to be the best mode of disposing of the dead and that facilities should be afforded for those who wish to adopt that system. The immediate practical effect on the health of the community will of course be infinitesimal, for the probable number of cremations annually has been placed at thirteen only, but even if it were very much larger it would still be small as compared with the large number of burials that will continue to take place. But all reforms must have a beginning and the Shanghai ratepayers are to be congratulated on having decided to make a commencement in the matter of reforming the system of disposing of the dead. As to the practical question of the cost, the promoters

of the movement seem to have been working in the dark, figures ranging from £800 to £2,000 having been mentioned. Even the larger sum, we should say, will be insufficient to meet the initial expense, which it would be safer to place at Tls. 30,000 to Tls. 50,000, while the annual cost of working and upkeep will probably not fall far short of Tls. 2,000. In Hongkong it will be observed that in the new Sanitary By-laws power is conferred on the Sanitary Board to cremate the bodies of persons dying from dangerous diseases, and if that power is to be exercised a proper crematorium should be provided. In that case the establishment might be maintained on a permanent footing so as to be available at any time for cremating the bodies of persons who might have expressed a preference for that system.

II.

The conferring on the Sanitary Board of power to cremate the bodies of persons dying from certain specified diseases has created some consternation amongst certain sections of the community. We understand that in reply to inquiries that have been made semi-official assurances have been given to the effect that no apprehension need be entertained, on the subject, as no Board in the world would cremate a body unless at the special request of the deceased or his friends, and that cremation will be adopted as a rule only in the case of Hindoos, the usual form of burial being retained in the case of other nationalities. For our own part, we hold cremation to be the best form of disposing of the dead and would be glad to see it universally adopted, but probably not even the most enthusiastic believer in the system would advocate its being made compulsory in the present state of public opinion and sentiment on the subject. Giving the members of the Sanitary Board, present and future, credit for possessing an ordinary share of common sense, we must suppose that they would never wantonly outrage the feelings of the relatives of a deceased person by cremating the body, if the relatives objected, unless under pressure of circumstances that might seem to render that course essential for the public welfare. And, after the painful experience of last year, it is possible to conceive of circumstances in which an intelligent Board might deem the adoption of cremation advisable. In case of a severe epidemic of plague, if the bodies of persons dying from the disease could be immediately removed from the hospital to an adjacent crematorium and there burnt, instead of being conveyed by cart and boat to a cemetery at some distant point of the island, it would be better and safer in every respect except in that of sentiment. It is, however, not likely that the Sanitary Board would outrage sentiment to the extent of adopting cremation for all alike, but the fact remains that the by-laws passed the other day give them power to do so. There is nothing in the by-laws themselves to show that the provision is intended to apply to Hindoos only, and in interpreting a legislative enactment, when the words themselves are clear, it is not allowable to go outside the four corners of the enactment to find out what the intention of the legislature was. In the present instance it appears it was intended that only the bodies of Hindoos should be cremated, but that intention has not been expressed or given effect to, and the Sanitary Board may if it thinks fit bury Hindoos or adopt cremation in the case of other nationalities. The by-law does not secure cremation for those who desire it nor does it protect from that system those who object to it. The whole thing is left to the discretion of the Sanitary Board, and the only protection either Hin-

doos or others have against what they may deem an objectionable mode of disposing of their dead, that is, burning in the one case and burial in the other, is the practical common sense of the members of the Sanitary Board. The protection may perhaps be deemed sufficient, but it would have been just as easy to make the law explicit as to leave it obscure.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF LI HUNG-CHANG IN JAPAN.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, 20th March.

Mr. Foster and Li Hung-chang have arrived at Shimonoseki and have been received with all due honours.

LONDON, 22nd March.

The peace negotiations have been opened at Shimonoseki. A successful issue of them is doubted in Yokohama, the military party in Japan being predominant, and a strong determination being noticed in the Diet that the time for peace has not yet arrived.

LONDON, 25th March.

Li Hung-chang whilst returning to his temporary residence from the Peace Conference was shot at and wounded in the face by a pistol. The perpetrator of the deed is a young Japanese, who has been arrested.

LONDON, 26th March.

Li Hung-chang is progressing favourably, but the bullet is not yet extracted.

The perpetrator is a man called Koyama, a political bravo, who suddenly emerging from the crowd stopped Li Hung-chang's palanquin and fired at him almost point blank.

The Mikado and his Ministers have expressed the most profound regrets, and the Mikado's physician is attending the invalid.

THE JAPANESE IN THE SOUTH.

THREATENED ATTACK ON FORMOSA.

CAPTURE OF THE PESCADORES.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAMS TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

ANPING, 23rd March.

The Japanese are attacking the Pescadores. We learn that a portion of the Japanese fleet left Japan on the 15th inst. Its destination was presumed to be Formosa, but it would appear that Makung, in the Pescadores, is to be occupied before Formosa itself is attacked.

ANPING, 24th March, 4.05 p.m.

The Japanese are now in complete possession of the Pescadores.

TAMSUI CLOSED.

We learn that telegrams have been received to the effect that the port of Tamsui was to be closed by the Chinese Authorities yesterday and that vessels will have to discharge into lighters outside.

BLOCKING OF AMOY HARBOUR.

Information has been received from Amoy that the entrance to that port is being blocked by torpedoes.

The *Mercury* of the 21st inst. says:—After a storm comes a calm; and the present calm is ominous. We are without information as to what is occurring at Shimonoseki. It is likely that the Envoys on both sides are exchanging credentials, and that as soon as these are found in order on both sides negotiations will begin. Meanwhile one or two incidents, themselves of small account, are to be noted. The Japanese have sent some ten men-of-war into the Gulf of Peohihli and these have been engaged searching approaching vessels, preferably German, for munitions of war. In so doing the Japanese are clearly acting within their rights as belligerents. On the other hand, much comment has been excited in native circles over the proceedings of the French fleet. A French man-of-war has lately been visiting the coast of Formosa, with the ostensible object of looking after the graves of sailors buried during the Franco-Chinese war. As in the former case the vessel was within her rights, but the time selected is unusual. Meanwhile the British fleet has been enjoying a spell of unwonted ease, and no further Japanese descents are noted. Admiral Fremantle is still at Shanghai.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 20th March. Present:—

His Excellency the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Hon. A. G. LEACH, Acting Attorney-General.

Hon. A. M. THOMPSON, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

Hon. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works.

Hon. R. M. RUMSEY, Harbour Master.

Hon. C. P. CHATER.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. A. MCCONACHIE.

Mr. A. Seth Clerk of Councils.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and passed.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT: EXPLANATION BY THE GOVERNOR.

HIS EXCELLENCY.—Before we proceed with the orders of the day I wish to make a few remarks in reference to some of the papers laid upon the table at the last meeting. From the statement of revenue and expenditure it will be seen that the balance in hand was \$451,000, and several comments have been made in reference to these figures in connection with the statement I made on 29th November that the balance in hand was \$600,000. It has been inferred that the Government wished to put a good face on the revenue in reference to the exchange compensation. My statement has also been called "a rhetorical flourish." I wish to observe that I made that statement in thoroughly good faith, and I am sure all members of the Council will believe with me when I say so. (Applause.) The statement was repeated by the Acting Colonial Secretary, and in justice to ourselves I ought to say that we were distinctly informed that the balance in hand was \$620,862. I am very sorry the mistake occurred. I have no desire to throw blame upon an absent officer, and I am very glad to say that the revenue of the current year is likely to be on a more satisfactory scale than even that of last year. (Applause.)

THE SANITARY BOARD BY-LAWS.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I have the honour to move the approval of certain by-laws made by the Sanitary Board under Section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894. It will be remembered that at the last meeting of the Council, at the request of the unofficial member opposite (Hon. J. J. Keswick), the consideration of the question of approval of the by-laws was postponed. Since that meeting certain amendments have been suggested by the unofficial members with regard to by-laws Nos. 3, 4, 5, 18, 19, 20, 22, 27, 33. The amendments suggested by the unofficial members were referred to the Sanitary Board for its consideration, and a letter has been received to-day from the Sanitary Board transmitting the by-laws, which were considered, amended, and made by the Board at a meeting held yesterday afternoon. I think the Sanitary Board is to be congratulated upon the prompt attention which it has given to this matter. I may say that the Sanitary Board has practically passed all the amendments suggested by the unofficial members with the exception of by-law 31—that is by-law 33 of the original by-laws, and 31 in the by-laws as last sent up by the Sanitary Board. Although they have not accepted it in its entirety, as the amendment proposed by the unofficial members amounted to its deletion, they have modified the by-law in question and confined it to a state of things when an epidemic of bubonic plague, small cholera, or such like disease exists in the colony. I trust that the by-laws will be approved without delay by this Council.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—In seconding the resolution I may say that the Sanitary Board has worked with extreme expedition because not only have its members had to consider the amendments proposed by the unofficial members, but they had to make other amendments also in regard to the by-laws which were only submitted for their consideration at the last moment. The hon. member then referred to a misprint in by-law 18, which was corrected without reference to the Sanitary Board.

Hon. C. P. CHATER.—I beg to say that the altered by-laws were received by me only during luncheon to-day, and on carefully going through

them I observed the clause to which the hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary has spoken, namely, clause 31. There is very little difference between what the Sanitary Board wants and what we, the unofficial members, would like to have; therefore I would ask your Excellency, as it is urgent that the by-laws should be passed, that they be passed with the exception of by-law 31, which might be referred to the Board for further consideration.

HIS EXCELLENCY.—The question is that clause 31 be referred back to the Sanitary Board, and I ask the Council to approve of the others.

THE HARBOUR MASTER.—The second subsection of section 2 states that "the material to be used for covering the floors and yards... situated on any upper floor." I do not know whether that is a mistake. Can you have a yard on the upper floor?

Hon. HO KAI.—Certainly.

HIS EXCELLENCY.—It is understood that the by-laws, excluding 31, are approved.

By-laws approved.

THE ISSUE OF BANK NOTES IN THE COLONY.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—I have the honour to bring before your attention to-day a subject which is not on the orders of the day, and that subject is a Bill to regulate the issue of bank notes in the colony. No notice having been given of the introduction of the Bill it will be necessary in order that it may be introduced to-day, that I should move the suspension of the standing orders. The Bill has been sent out and drafted by the Secretary of State with orders to pass it without delay, and it is necessary to put it through all its stages to-day in order that there may be no time to evade or attempt to evade its provisions. It is therefore necessary for me to move the suspension of the standing orders.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I beg to second the motion.

Carried nem. con.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—I have to move the first reading of an Ordinance to regulate the issue of bank notes in the colony. The object of the Ordinance is to prevent any bank from making, issuing, or circulating any bank notes without the sanction of one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State. It does not attempt to regulate, and it exempts from its chief provisions, the rights by Banks possessed under Royal Charter or Colonial Ordinance. The Ordinance, as I have remarked before, is introduced by express directions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The regulation of the issue of paper money by bankers is an undoubted prerogative of the Crown, and in England it is regulated, I think, by the Bank Charter Act of 1844. But although the Royal Instructions to this colony and the Colonial Regulations point very clearly to the prohibition of the issue of bank notes without the previous sanction of the Secretary of State or without a Charter or Ordinance having been obtained, hitherto there has been no statute law or enactment prohibiting the issue of bank notes in this colony. That fact was brought to the attention of the Secretary of State, and he has accordingly directed that this Ordinance be passed. The Ordinance briefly provides that at some date to be fixed—that is from the passing of this Ordinance or from such day as may be put in the Ordinance—no bank is to make, issue, or circulate bank notes payable to bearer on demand without the sanction of one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State. The Ordinance does not affect bank notes which are in circulation on that day. That will be filled in in Committee as this day, 20th March. There is also a provision in the Ordinance enabling the Colonial Treasurer to require banks to furnish him with a statement of the number of bank notes in issue or circulation on 20th March this year in order that notes issued afterwards may be identified from notes issued prior to the passing of this Ordinance. I do not think it will be necessary for me either on the second or third reading to make any further remarks. The object is a very simple one; it is to give effect to what has always been the intention of the Colonial Office. I have to move the first reading.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I beg to second that.

Bill read the first and second times and committed.

Hon. HO KAI.—Do the words "Bank Notes" include notes issued by Chinese bankers?

THE ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—As I un-

derstand, notes issued by the Chinese banks are not bank notes at all; if anything they are bank post bills. Bank notes are notes issued by the ordinary incorporated banks. None of the Chinese banks are incorporated.

Hon. HO KAI—No; that is so.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—They do not issue bank notes in the ordinary acceptation of the term.

Hon. HO KAI—I only wanted to be quite clear upon the point.

Bill passed through Committee without discussion.

Council resumed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

THE POSSESSION OF FIRE ARMS.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—In moving the second reading of the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to the carriage and possession of deadly weapons," I would like to call attention very briefly to what has given rise to the proposed Consolidation Ordinance. Most of the Ordinances is entirely old matter, but there are only certain portions of it which are new matter. Early last March a serious disturbance took place in the City of Victoria. There were plain fights, I think I am correct in saying, of men from the Tong Kun and Sa Yip districts, and during the period of disturbance it was necessary to bring into force by proclamation of the Governor certain provisions of the Peace Preservation Ordinance. Arms, revolvers, fighting irons, were found in the possession of Chinese by the police, and persons were assaulted with swords, some were killed or injured by shots in the streets, and people were shot at from the roofs of houses. Owing to the vigilance of the police and the active measures taken by them and also in some degree to the salutary application of the Banishment Ordinance, everything was in time quieted down. Shortly after this disturbance took place, the Captain Superintendent of Police presented a report detailing very ably all the circumstances of the affair. The result was that at the end of May last year a strong Committee was appointed to enquire into the means of preventing a repetition of such rioting. The Committee comprised the Registrar-General, the Captain Superintendent of Police, and others, who certainly read very good services to the Committee. The report of the Committee was presented in October last year, and I will very briefly refer to that portion of the report which deals with the proposed amendments in this Ordinance, and it is as follows:—

"We are of opinion that the Arms Consolidation Ordinance 1891 should be amended in the following respects.

"(1).—Section 5. In addition to the 'carrying' of arms the possession of arms generally (and otherwise than is provided against in the existing law) without due authority should be prohibited." The Arms Consolidation Ordinance dealt with the carriage only of arms except in certain instances. The report goes on—

"(2).—'Due authority' should be a licence to possess arms grantable in the same manner as a licence to 'carry' arms under Section 3 of the Arms Consolidation Ordinance as amended by Section 3 of Ordinance 4 of 1892. All licences granted as above should be issued for a limited period only, otherwise the restrictions on the sale of arms which we are recommending in the subsequent paragraph under this heading might be evaded.

"(3).—All owners of trading junks or fishing junks exempted in Section 5 of the present Ordinance should be required to hold a licence (similarly available for a given period) signed by the Harbour Master.

"(4).—All licences to 'carry' or 'possess' arms should be made out in the name of the grantee and should not be transferable, and should bear the number of the day of issue and expiry.

"(5).—The sale of arms—this is a very important matter—by dealers should be prohibited unless the intending purchaser is provided with, and presents at the time of purchase, a licence to carry or possess arms.

"(6).—A register should be kept by all dealers in arms in which should be entered the name, occupation, and address of the purchaser, the amount and date of the purchase and the number and date of the licence presented in each case.

"(7).—As an alternative to the powers granted under Section 19 of the present Ordinance the Governor in Council should be further empowered during the continuance of any proclamation issued under the Peace Preservation Ordinance to order the closing of all arms shops, and the suspension of the sale of arms during that period. The penalty for the breach of the law in this respect should be the same as that provided by section 20 of the present Ordinance."

These recommendations, I think, have been given full effect to in the Bill now before the Council. I do not think I need detain the Council in going into details, because members will have an opportunity of making any suggestions when the Council is in Committee. In regard to section 5, it seems to me that it requires consideration. That section provides that "no person who has not a licence from the Governor for the purpose shall carry any arms or have any arms in his possession in this colony." Then follow certain exemptions. Now, sir, I think there are one or two matters in connection with that section which require very considerable care. In the first place there is no exemption in respect to steamers in the harbour, and nearly all of them have a certain quantity of arms on board for their own protection. In the second place there are steamers carrying arms as *bona fide* cargo in transit through the harbour. The wording of the old Ordinance also seems defective in regard to trading and fishing junks. The Harbour Master informs me that there are four classes of junks; there are licensed trading junks, licensed fishing junks, unlicensed trading junks, and unlicensed fishing boats. There is only one class which is required to give security and that is the licensed fishing junks. At the last moment there has been a further objection to this Bill. It is said that it deals harshly with Chinese dealers in arms. Mr. Denny, who represents them, indicated this fact to me about half-an-hour ago, and I believe he also indicated it to my hon. friend on my left (Hon. J. J. Keswick). In view of these objections to the Bill I do not propose to ask the Council to go into Committee on this Bill to-day. I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second that.

Bill read a second time.

THE REPEALS ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to declare the effect of Ordinances repealing others." As I mentioned on the last occasion this is a technical subject, and its object is to provide that class of legislation which has long been the law in England, and which, I believe, has been adopted by the Straits Settlements and other colonies.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded the motion.

Bill read a second time, committed, and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I propose that the Council do adjourn until Thursday week at 3.30.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 26th March. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Hon. A. J. LEACH, Acting Attorney-General.

Hon. A. M. THOMSON, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

Hon. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works.

Hon. R. M. RUMSEY, Harbour Master.

Hon. C. P. CHATER.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. A. MCCONACHIE.

Mr. A. SETH, Clerk of Councils.

APPOINTMENT OF COLONIAL SECRETARY.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I have much pleasure in informing you that in accordance with the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, and having regard to his valuable services to this colony, the Secretary of State has been pleased to appoint the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart Colonial Secretary. Whilst we all regret the cause of the retirement of that very able officer, Sir George O'Brien, I am sure you will join with me in congratulating Mr. Stewart Lockhart upon his appointment, and in expressing the hope that he will fill the office to which he has been promoted worthily and successfully. (Applause.)

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, having taken the oath, said—I have to thank your Excellency for the kind words in which you have referred to my appointment as Colonial Secretary, and the members of the Council for the manner in which your remarks have been received. I can only say that my one desire in the future will be—as it has been in the past—to perform my duties to the best of my ability and to do everything in my power to further the interests and promote the welfare of this colony, in which the whole of my official career has been spent, and which has been kind to me in many ways, and to which I am very firmly attached. (Applause).

THE STRIKE—"WEAK AND CRIMINAL" TO

ABANDON PROCEEDINGS.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The only item on the order of the day is the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Public Health Ordinance, 1837, in relation to Common Lodging Houses. The Acting Attorney-General will presently explain to you the *raison d'être* of this Bill and the necessity which exists for passing it through its various stages this afternoon. Before he does so I will, with your permission, say a few words with reference to the existing state of affairs. It is somewhat serious. I must express my surprise—not to use a stronger term—my disgust at the obstinacy, stupidity and ignorance of the Chinese labourers now on strike. They must either have been wilfully misled by the lodging house keepers as to the registration of Common Lodging Houses or they themselves have wilfully misunderstood the object of the regulations passed by this Council at its last meeting. As you know perfectly well, the object of these regulations was not to pave the way for a poll tax or any other tax against the Chinese. The object of the regulations was to improve, if possible, the condition of the labouring population, and to make their houses and surroundings more healthy and comfortable than they are, and to protect the general community from any recurrence of the bubonic plague or any invasion of the colony by any epidemic whatever. The Government has taken up its position and it does not intend to abandon it. I consider it would be weak and criminal to do so, and I am glad to hear from all sides that the mercantile community intends to support the Government in this matter through thick and thin. (Applause). No doubt you will remember that in my despatch 151 of 20th June, which was laid on this table, I referred to the measures to be taken to prevent a possible recurrence of the plague. I said these measures would be drastic. I said they might possibly lead to an increase in the rents, to an increase in the cost of living, and perhaps cause a general rise of wages. If these regulations or this Ordinance we propose to pass to-day will cause any increase in rents, doubtless an application from the labouring classes will be received for a general increase of wages, and I believe that is a matter which is very easily adjusted. But it is a matter purely between employers of labour and the labourers themselves, and does not interfere with or affect the regulations of the Government which it is intended to enforce. I feel quite sure that these people on strike will be the immediate sufferers in any case. Happily the Military, Naval and Civil authorities have combined, and can put from 2,000 to 3,000 labourers into the field; and it is within the means of merchants to telegraph to Swatow and Amoy for more labourers, who if they come here, will deprive the existing men of all hope of employment here in the future. I should be very glad if Dr. Ho Kai, who represents the Chinese, would take an opportunity of interviewing the respectable Chinese merchants and would ask them to endeavour to persuade these men to abandon the foolish and short-sighted policy which they have decided to adopt. They may rely upon the Government treating them fairly, and they may also rely upon the fact that the Government intends to carry into effect the sanitary measures included in these regulations, and which have been approved by the Executive Council and the Legislative Council also. I will now ask the Acting Attorney-General to introduce the Bill.

THE NEW BILL PASSED.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—In moving the first reading of this Bill I should like first of all to very briefly review the circumstances under which it has become necessary to alter the law. The Public Health Ordinance, amongst other provisions, aimed at stopping overcrowding, and

by section 73 it aimed at stopping overcrowding especially in common lodging houses, and laid down "that no person should keep open a common lodging house unless the house is registered and the keeper thereof is licensed by the Registrar-General," the keeper, under the definition clause, meaning any person licensed to keep open a lodging house. By Ordinance 26 of 1890 that section is amended, and power is given to the Sanitary Board to make by-laws with regard to the licensing of common lodging houses. The by-laws were duly made, but the date of their coming into operation was postponed from time to time, until, I think, the end of last year, when it was determined that the by-laws and the provisions with regard to overcrowding of lodging houses, especially having regard to the advent of the plague, should come into force, and should be strictly put into force. Now, sir, the Captain Superintendent of Police undertook the duties or a portion of the duties of enforcing the registration, or enforcing the law against, I should say, the keepers of these houses whether licensed or not, and making them conform to the by-laws under the Ordinance. When he came to actually attempt to prosecute the keepers, or those who kept open these houses, because there is a definition between these two classes of persons—he found very great difficulties in the way. The first difficulty he found was that the keepers—I use the word keepers under the definition clause—those persons who keep open the house, had run away, and all the chief men could not be got at. In several instances some of the men, or the head coolies who appeared to be keeping the house open, were summoned, and in one or two instances convictions have been made. The difficulties that the prosecution has are almost insurmountable. Another difficulty arises in connection with the definition of common lodging houses. According to the present definition a common lodging house is "any house or part thereof where persons are housed—not being members of the same family—at an amount not exceeding five cents a day, or one dollar a month for each person." You can imagine the difficulty which any prosecution would have in proving any house to come within that definition. How is it possible in the face of the hostile position and in the face of these people running away from the colony, to prove that the coolies only paid five cents a day or one dollar a month? It is a law which has proved impracticable, and in only one or two cases has any evidence been obtained. Take the second section and you will again see what a difficulty presents itself at once in case of any breach of the law in regard to lodging houses—"Any permanent structure in which employers of labour lodge their employees other than domestic servants, or shopmen, as part of the remuneration given for their services." There again you see it would be impossible for the prosecution to prove that domestic servants or shopmen were lodging in these houses as part of the remuneration which they were receiving for their services. Therefore it has become necessary to simplify the definition of common lodging houses, and it is proposed in this Bill to keep out any reference either to the amount paid by these coolies for their lodgings or the remuneration which they receive from their employers. The second material clause of the Bill touches Section 73 of the Ordinance. There are two classes of persons dealt with in this section—persons who keep the houses. I understand that as yet no persons have been licensed under section 73, and inasmuch as in nearly every case the person who keeps open the house is a person who is actually responsible, I may say that he has fled from the colony, and there is a necessity to look for someone else. Well, of course, it has been a matter of very serious consideration as to who shall be responsible in the absence of the person who keeps open the house, and in case he cannot be found, or in the absence of the licensed keeper, if there is any breach of the by-laws made under the Ordinance, it has been thought that it would only be fair—in a case, say, where there is a person who keeps open a house and cannot be found—that you should come down in such an instance on the householder as defined by the Ordinance; or where a house has been licensed and there has been a breach of the law and the keeper has fled from the law, that you should come down similarly upon the householder. The householder, for the purposes of this Ordinance, is the

actual tenant or occupier of any building, and in the case where there is no such person the immediate landlord, and in the case of corporations and companies the secretary thereof. I do not think it would be any real hardship. Somebody must be made responsible for the maintenance of the law with regard to overcrowding. The object is to keep these houses in a sanitary condition, and especially with a view to the possible advent of plague in the near future. It is highly essential that somebody should be made responsible for the proper number of persons inhabiting these common lodging houses. I think, sir, it is manifest that during the last few years the Chinese—I do not of course refer to the higher classes—but the chief coolies and others have stirred the men up and harangued against the law in the hope of coercing the Government. The time has come when the Government must put its foot down, and put it down firmly. If the men do not like the law the sooner they leave the colony the better. Of course this action of the Government must to some extent tell against the trade of the colony, but I think I may say with confidence that where you touch their pockets by enforcing the law or by getting others to do what they ordinarily do, you will find that the inconvenience to the trade will only be temporary. With these remarks I beg to move the first reading of the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second that. After the remarks of your Excellency and the full explanation of the hon. the Acting Attorney-General, there is not very much left for me to say upon the subject. I am sure that every member of this Council will be agreed that it is absolutely necessary that steps should be taken and that nothing should be left undone to carry out the object which the Government had in view in this matter. I am sure the whole of this community will read with great satisfaction the remarks made by your Excellency that it was the intention of the Government to stand firm in this matter and not to allow the coolies to have the upper hand. To my mind this is one of the most extraordinary disputes in the history of labour. There are unfortunately many strikes in England and elsewhere, and there is always some reason for them. But here we have a large number of coolies without any actual grievance and without being able to formulate any grievance. There are strikes in all parts of the world, and there is always some grievance, but in the case of these coolies it is impossible for them to formulate any grievance. Under these circumstances I feel certain there will be no hesitation on the part of the members of this Council in supporting the Bill, the first reading of which I have now the honour to second. As the hon. the Acting Attorney-General has pointed out, it is absolutely necessary that somebody should be made responsible with regard to these common lodging houses. Under the old law it has been found that directly the head coolie chooses to move into Chinese territory, the by-law becomes a dead letter. If the householder as defined by the Ordinance does not wish his house to be used as a common lodging house he has the remedy in his own hands. I am quite sure that householders will show a public spirit in this matter, and will come forward and support the Government in trying to bring about a satisfactory settlement in this matter. (Applause.)

Bill read a first time.

The standing orders were suspended and the Bill read a second time.

Council went into Committee, and the Bill was read clause by clause and a minor alteration made.

Council resumed.

Hon. HO KAI—Before the Bill is passed I think I ought to say a few words. I have not opposed this Ordinance to-day, not because I think all the sections are quite just and fair—in fact I think section 3 presses harshly upon the householder or the immediate landlord—but because I think the unfortunate position which has been brought on by the coolies themselves has made it necessary for the Government to pass an Ordinance of this kind to deal with the matter. But I can assure your Excellency that I, as representative of the Chinese in this Council, together with many other persons—Mr. Wai Yuk and others connected with the Chinese—have for a long time been reasoning with these coolies. We have explained to their head men thoroughly the intentions of the Government

and the effect of these by-laws, and have gone so far as to personally assure them by offering them written documents that should at any time the Government wish to take advantage of these by-laws and to impose a poll tax upon the coolies, we, as representatives of them in this colony, would be personally liable to them. We did this so as to show them in the strongest manner we possibly could that there was no intention on the part of the Government to impose anything like poll tax upon them. (Hear, hear.) That we have not succeeded in persuading them is a matter for regret, and although we have not succeeded so far, I can assure your Excellency and this Council that we, as representatives of the Chinese, will not cease our efforts to bring about a change in the present state of affairs, which we all deprecate. In some cases the men have been amenable to reason. Still, as I say, we will not cease our work, and you may rely upon this, that those Chinese who have come to the help of the Government hitherto will render to the Government their loyal support on this occasion. (Applause.)

Bill read a third time and passed.

The Council then adjourned.

THE REGISTRATION OF COOLIE HOUSES.

ACTIVE MEASURES BY THE POLICE.

The Police have resolved to enforce the registration of coolie houses in the colony as laid down by the Sanitary Board by-laws, and, as an instance of their determination, twenty-seven summonses against coolie house keepers were issued and made returnable at the Police Court on Friday. The offence in each case was "unlawfully keeping open a common lodging house without registering the same and obtaining a licence from the Registrar-General," and the summonses were issued under section 73 of Ordinance 24 of 1887. In only one case did the keeper of the house appear, and it was decided by Commander W. C. H. Hastings, the Magistrate, that he had not infringed the law, and so the case against him was dismissed. All the remaining summonses were taken out against "the keeper," no name being mentioned, as the police were unable to ascertain any of the names. Of course the inevitable consequence was that not a single defendant appeared in answer to the charge, and it is said that the whole of the keepers, with the object of evading the law and giving the police trouble, have temporarily evacuated their houses and left them in charge of the coolies themselves. The Magistrate, of course, had no option, the defendants not having appeared and their names being unknown, but to dismiss the summonses. But fortunately the police will go one better than the wily keepers. The trump card has yet to be played. It is practically impossible to get the names of the keepers, and so other means must be adopted to put the law in motion. The coolie houses are, for the most part, let by the owners to men who in turn sublet them to the coolie house keepers. The men who lease the houses from the owners are registered as the householders at the Registrar-General's office, and the police will now issue fresh summonses against these men. It is only by resorting to this method of procedure that the keepers can be traced. If the occupants are not the keepers it is not likely that they will stand the racket of prosecution under the provisions of the Ordinance, but will, in their own defence, reveal the names of their subtenants; if they are the keepers—and in one or two cases it will doubtless be found that they are—they of course will be unable to further delude the authorities. Up to the present not a single lodging house keeper has complied with the demands of the law, as contained in the following resolution passed at a meeting of the Sanitary Board at the latter end of last year:—"That the 1st day of January, 1895, be fixed by this Board under by-law 17 made on the 21st day of July, 1892, and approved by the Legislative Council on the 30th day of November in the same year, as the day upon which shall come into force the by-laws for licensing and regulating common lodging houses made under sub-section 12 of section 13 of Ordinance 24 of 1887, and sub-section (d) of section 1 of Ordinance 26 of 1890." After the first batch of summonses has been disposed of proceedings will be taken against all keepers.

who choose to disregard the by-laws. There will be no quarter shown, as it is only by dealing with the keepers in a firm manner they can be taught that they cannot continue to break the provisions of the Ordinance with impunity.

The case in which the defendant appeared—and his name was not in the summons—was in respect of the San Chan coolie house, situated on the second floor of 15, Li Un Street East. Mr. Johnson, Crown solicitor, appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Dennys appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Charles Osmond, clerk in the Registrar-General's office, said a register for common lodging house keepers in the colony had been open since 1st January, but not a single keeper had as yet registered.

F. C. Poon Cheung, 202, spoke to visiting the defendant's house on three occasions—10th January, 10th March, and 20th March. He saw men in the house who worked cargo on steamers. He also saw implements in the house and tubs containing rice, and on one occasion eight or nine men surrounded a table and were eating rice in the sitting room.

In answer to Mr. Dennys witness said the sitting room contained blackwood furniture of the ordinary Chinese style. Behind this room was an accountant's room, and behind that there was a small bed room in which the cook and boy slept. The house was not fitted up in any way for sleeping accommodation and was not like the usual coolie house.

Mr. Johnson said the evidence of the constable did not go so far as he thought and he must leave the case in his Worship's hands.

Mr. Dennys submitted that there was absolutely no evidence that the house was a coolie house.

The summons was dismissed.

The twenty-six remaining summonses were then called on, but as no one appeared in answer to them they were dismissed.

The following is the Bill passed at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 26th inst. to amend the Public Health Ordinance, 1897, in relation to Common Lodging Houses:—

1.—This Ordinance shall be construed and read as one with the Public Health Ordinance, 1897, as amended by Ordinance No. 26 of 1890, and all by-laws heretofore made thereunder shall be deemed to be made under the Public Health Ordinance, 1897, as hereby further amended.

2.—The Public Health Ordinance, 1897, section 3, sub-section 4 (a), (b), is hereby repealed, and in lieu thereof the following sub-section is substituted:—

4.—Common Lodging Houses.

(a) Any house or part thereof where usually male persons only are housed—not being members of the same family—to the number of ten persons and upwards.

(b) Any permanent structure in which employers of labour lodge their employes other than domestic servants or shopmen.

3.—If any person, who opens or keeps open any common lodging house contrary to the provisions of section 73 of the Public Health Ordinance, 1897, cannot be found, or if the keeper of any common lodging house which is opened or kept open contrary to the provisions aforesaid is absent from the colony, the householder as defined by the Public Health Ordinance, 1897, shall be deemed to be the person who opens or keeps open such house and shall be liable accordingly.

COOLIE STRIKE.

25th March.

Up to last night three thousand coolies, it was estimated, had gone on strike. The common lodging house keepers, objecting to the Sanitary Board by-laws with regard to registration, have induced the coolies to stop work by falsely telling them that registration would mean a poll tax. But fortunately the strike has not, up to the present, led to the least disturbance, and, as far as can be ascertained, very little inconvenience has been caused in loading and unloading vessels in the harbour. It was on Saturday morning, about 11.30, when the first signs of dissatisfaction were noticed. A large number of street carrying coolies refused to proceed with their work, and then the majority of the coolies west of Canton Wharf joined them. The police at the Central Police Station were informed of

this state of affairs, and with creditable promptitude an armed picket of European, Indian, and Chinese police marched down with a view to checking any acts of violence or cases of intimidation that might arise. The presence of a strong body of police evidently took the coolies by surprise, for they very quickly altered their determination to intimidate others and soon dispersed in various directions. One coolie, however, more daring than the rest, ventured to introduce the subject of striking to some of the coolies on the Canton steamer, and he was promptly collared and marched off to the police station. Since then there has been no attempt to create a disturbance.

Yesterday morning a large number of coolies at Wanchai left off working at eleven o'clock and when asked for the reason of the stoppage they either replied "This b'long Sunday" or "Master no got; hab gone." It is not at all certain whether the Wanchai batch actually did go on strike; it is thought that the more probable explanation is that the lodging house keepers in that part have, in many instances, left the colony for Kowloon City, and that the coolies left work because of the uncertainty of getting paid. In the afternoon a further detachment of coolies in the western district decided to join the ranks of the idlers and these included a large number of rice pounders. This increase of the strikers caused a stoppage of work on one of the steamers. Permits under the Sunday Cargo Working Ordinance had been granted by the Harbour Master to the captains of three German steamers to unload yesterday, but owing to the dearth of coolies one of them had to remain unloaded. Naturally every one is concerned more particularly with to-day's developments. Yesterday every district was quiet enough, and there were no signs whatever of a strike, but its effects can only be judged on a general working day. It is of course most probable that the ranks of the strikers will be materially increased to-day, but it is not thought that the strike will last long or that there will be any rioting. The police patrol along the Praya has been doubled, in case of emergency, and the police pinnaces carry an extra body of men to protect the interests of the shipowners. It is only by maintaining a firm stand that the coolies can be controlled, and at present it looks as if the authorities were determined this time not to be ruled by the threatening attitude of misguided coolies.

H.E. the Governor has arranged for five hundred men of the Rifle Brigade to work cargo for shippers if desired. Shippers will of course have to pay the men. Applications should be addressed to His Excellency's Private Secretary.

26th March.

Yesterday the ranks of the coolies who on Saturday sought a period of self-imposed idleness were considerably increased, as the whole of the boaling coolies refused to continue work. The consequence was that the shipowners were unable to obtain the services of a single coolie on the steamers in the harbour, and the work of coal-ing, loading, and unloading was with two exceptions carried on by the ships' crews. The situation is of course rather a serious one for the shipowners, as it is now only possible to proceed with the work at half the customary speed; but notwithstanding this inconvenience they sincerely trust that the Government will remain firm and give no quarter to the lodging house keepers. A representative of the *Daily Press* interviewed a member of one of the leading shipping firms yesterday, and asked his opinion of the strike.

"If the Government had stood its ground last year," replied this gentleman, "the present trouble would not have arisen. The keepers would have submitted, for there is absolutely nothing in the Ordinance that even the most fastidious can take exception to. As it is, I think the strike will continue for at least a week. Pangs of hunger will then bring about a change in the coolies' ideas. But something more ought to be done. For my own part I believe that the keepers and stevedores are feathering their own nests. We pay the stevedores so much per ton and he engages the coolies. What the coolies get I do not know, but if, in consequence of the Ordinance, the keepers will be unable to accommodate so many sleepers as hitherto, and if they will lose in their takings, then the shipowners might pay an extra amount for the coolies. But I believe the coolies do not get a proper share of the wages, and I also think

that the keepers are not so badly off as they would make out. They are simply raising the present cry in order to better themselves. An extravagant to the stevedores would of course make a very big difference, but I do not think that any of the shipowners would object if it is really the case that the keepers will be obliged to raise their prices in consequence of the reduction in the number of lodgers, and if the coolies are unable to pay the increased demands."

As we announced yesterday Riflemen and convicts have been engaged on steamers, and it is most probable that to-day all the shipowners will make application for extra assistance, which of course will have to be paid for. Yesterday a hundred privates of the Rifle Brigade were engaged in unloading the *Verona*. The outward bound mail steamer *Pekin* was coaled by upwards of fifty convicts from the goal, and left port yesterday afternoon. The cargoes of all the other steamers were worked by the crews. A few coolies, in the employ of the Godown Company, were protected during the day from the violence of the strikers by a company of the Hongkong regiment.

Up to the present there has fortunately been no disturbance, and perhaps the peaceful attitude of the strikers is due to the special watch which is being kept by the police. Armed pickets and a doubled force of police on duty have without doubt had a very beneficial effect, as the least sign of rioting by the coolies would be instantly observed and the disturbance nipped in the bud. These special precautions will be continued until the strike is over.

The *Daily Press* reporter saw one of the stevedores yesterday and, in an innocent manner, asked him why the coolies were not working on the steamers. "Oh," was the reply of this Chinese gentleman, "the Government wants to license the coolies." "License the coolies! why should the coolies be licensed?" asked the pressman. "Well they want to register the keepers." "Yes, and what has that to do with the coolies?" pursued the reporter. The reply was, "The keepers tell the coolies to go on strike because they will have to pay more money. Why do you want to know?" With a "chin-chin" the newspaper man left the shop very grateful for this information.

THREATENED TROUBLE AT QUARRY BAY.

Yesterday evening considerable difficulty was experienced at Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's Sugar Refinery Works at Quarry Bay in getting the men to return to work. Two thousand coolies are employed on the premises and yesterday afternoon they were threatened by scores of belligerent strikers with serious consequences if they resumed work. Matters became so alarming that the manager decided to send for police assistance. Mr. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, who has been working exceptionally hard during the trouble with the coolies, visited the premises and promised to send a number of armed men to protect the workmen. The coolies, however, were so frightened by the menaces of the strikers that they would not enter the works until seven o'clock, and it was not until half-past seven that they resumed work. By that time a number of armed constables had arrived and they stationed themselves at various parts of the premises for the purpose of seeing that the coolies were not interfered with. During the latter part of the evening a number of sampans containing a large number of the strikers, seen hovering off the works and they were taken there at a late hour last night. Further police assistance arrived subsequently and of precaution was taken for the protection of the working coolies.

THE CHARGE OF INTIMIDATION A SALUTARY SENTENCE.

At the Police Court yesterday, before Mr. H. E. Wodehouse, Chang I, coolie, was charged with intimidating workmen.

An English constable said that on Saturday morning the prisoner was at Canton Wharf when he met another coolie carrying baskets of salt slung on a bamboo. The accused struck the coolie, knocked the baskets off the pole, and threw the pole away.

Mr. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, said he asked for the full penalty. The whole efforts of the police were directed to stopping violence of this sort, and if it once was permitted no one knew when it would stop.

The Magistrate said the case was clearly one of using violence to prevent a coolie carrying on his proper occupation. He should impose the full penalty—three month's imprisonment.

THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

The following communication has been forwarded to us:—The Lieutenant-General Commanding having authorized the employment of troops who may volunteer in the work of cargo loading and unloading, etc., shipping firms desirous of utilizing their services may apply to Lieut. Colonel, N. P. O'Gorman, Deputy Assistant Adjutant General (A), Commissariat Buildings, stating particulars as to the number of men they require, the wharf to embark at, time of arrival there, and probable duration of the work. Applications should be made by letter between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. but if this is not practicable a letter delivered at any time after this hour to the native orderly on duty at the Commissariat Guard Room will be duly attended to.

27th March.

The futile attempt on the part of the coolies to force the Government from its position still continues. But fortunately one can still obtain a ricksha, and the supply of chairs is greater than the demand. It can be safely said that the coolies are having the worse of the game, and in a short time they will be checkmated. No doubt for a time they will be daily adding to their ranks by alarming those at work, but their energy in this direction cannot last long against the pains of an empty stomach. As one gentleman remarked yesterday, all the police forces in the world will not prevent a strike, and this one will run its course and die a natural death probably in about a week's time. But the presence of an alert force of police strikes terror into the hearts of the coolies, and hence there have been no acts of violence recorded. The men at the Taikoo Sugar Refinery were not molested on leaving work at midnight on Monday, and this peaceful condition was without doubt brought about by the ample police protection which was afforded them. Yesterday morning of such a party, and the coolies are now trying to enter upon a strike. Several steamers were yesterday unloaded at Aberdeen by Riflemen, convicts, and a number of coolies, all of whom worked under the police launch. The coolies work at Aberdeen all went from the city unmindful of the menaces of the intimidating idlers, and, for their sake, slept in junks. On Monday the discharged her cargo at Aberdeen, and the ships that were unloaded there yesterday were the *Propontis*, *Benmohr*, *Michael Jensen*, *Kolstein*, and *Hongkong*. The cargo coolies at the Kowloon Wharf continue to work.

At the Police Court yesterday, before Commander W. C. H. Hastings, twenty-seven summonses were called on against keepers of common lodging houses for not registering the same and obtaining a license from the Registrar General. In only three of the cases did the defendants appear. One of the cases was adjourned until Saturday and the defendants in the two other cases were each ordered to pay a fine of \$25, and a distress warrant was ordered to be issued in default of payment. In one of the cases a coolie who gave evidence said he paid 20 cents a month for rent, and in the second a coolie told the Magistrate he paid a cent a day for his lodgings. In the cases in which the defendants failed to appear the Magistrate ordered warrants to be issued for their arrest.

THE BY-LAWS UNDER THE INANIMATE DWELLINGS ORDINANCE.

The by-laws passed by the Sanitary Board on the 4th inst. were revised at a meeting of the Board held on the 19th inst., of which a public notification was issued, and the amendments, with the exception of one clause, were approved by the Legislative Council on Wednesday, the 20th inst.

The clause not approved was No. 31, which reads as follows:—

"During the prevalence of an epidemic of bubonic plague, cholera, small-pox, or such other diseases as may be from time to time duly notified in the *Government Gazette*, any buildings or part of a building or premises certified in writing by two legally qualified and registered medical practitioners, authorized by the Sanitary Board, to be unfit for human habitation, even although cleansed and disinfected as hereinbefore provided, may be closed by order of the said Board and the occupants of the same removed, if need be by force, if they do not remove themselves and their furniture and effects within 24 hours after notice of the order to close the buildings or premises or any part thereof has been served on the occupant or posted on the premises. And the Board shall have power to erect matcheds, or hire buildings, or charter boats or vessels for the housing of persons so removed."

The by-laws submitted yesterday had been altered in several respects from those originally submitted. Most of the alterations are of a technical character, but the following are worthy of note:—

Section 17 in the original draft provided for the removal of persons suffering from epidemic, endemic, or contagious disease to hospital. To this the following has been added:—"Provided that such persons are not, in the written opinion of a legally qualified and registered medical practitioner, being treated without danger to the public health unless so removed."

Section 18 in the original draft provided for the removal of persons suffering from epidemic, endemic, or contagious disease to hospital. To this the following has been added:—"Provided that such persons are not, in the written opinion of a legally qualified and registered medical practitioner, being treated without danger to the public health unless so removed."

Section 18 provides for the disposal of the bodies of persons dying from contagious diseases. To the words "shall be buried" have been added the words "or cremated," and the following proviso has been added:—"Provided always that the Sanitary Board, under the hand of its Secretary, shall have previously certified that it is necessary that persons dying from such diseases shall be buried in such place."

Clause 19, formerly clause 20, provides for the reporting of contagious diseases. The diseases have now been specified as follows:—

"Bubonic plague, cholera, small-pox, or from such other disease as may be from time to time duly notified in the *Government Gazette*, or from any disease appearing to resemble such diseases."

Clause 24, formerly clause 25, as originally drafted provided that on the certificate of a duly authorized officer of the Board or duly qualified medical practitioner any building, bedding, furniture, or other article might be destroyed. The word "building" has been removed in the draft as finally passed.

Clause 25, formerly 26, also provided that every room or place in which there had been contagious disease should be "thoroughly cleansed and disinfected or destroyed as the Sanitary Board may direct." The words "or destroyed" have been struck out.

The effect of the two last named alterations is that the Board has power to order the cleansing, disinfecting, and vacating of any infected premises, but has not the power to order their destruction.

In the original draft the following clause appeared, but has been struck out in the amended draft:—"A select Committee of three or more members of the Sanitary Board may be appointed by the said Board, with full power and authority to exercise under the authority of the said Board all or any of the powers or authorities vested in or exercisable by the said Board under these by-laws."

THE TAIPIINGSHAN RESUMPTION.

The following report by the Director of Public Works on the resumption of certain properties in the Taipingshan district in the city of Victoria was laid before the Legislative Council on Wednesday, the 20th inst.:—
Public Works Department.
Hongkong, 6th March, 1895.

Sir,—Now that the amounts to be awarded in respect of certain properties resumed by the Government under the Taipingshan Resumption Ordinance, 1894, have been decided, I have the honour to submit for the information of His Excellency the Governor the following report.

2. In accordance with the instructions contained in C.S.O. 1122, I at once, with as little interference with the work in hand and the ordinary routine of the department, had the plans prepared and other information collected, that I deemed necessary for deciding the amounts to be offered by Government in respect of the various properties concerned.

3.—This was, of course, work of some magnitude, and as the claims rapidly came in after the appointment of the Board of Arbitration, a great deal of my time during the last three months has been devoted to the consideration of

these claims and attendance before the arbitrators.

4.—The total number of claims, excluding those by others than owners, received, was 77, involving 118 distinct Inland Lots and 417 houses, the total area of private property resumed being 6.25 acres.

5.—I attach a tabular statement showing the number of the claim, the lot number, the area of property, the number of houses, the amount claimed, the amount offered, the amount awarded, and the Crown rent payable by the late lessee in respect of each claim.

6.—In many cases, the amounts of the claims were altered on being referred to the Board, and the particulars furnished by the claimants were incomplete, compared with those they afterwards tendered to the Board, which accounts, in some cases, for the difference between the amounts offered and those awarded. In some cases, however, I was approached by the claimants, after an offer had been made, with a view to settlement without going before the Board, and as will be seen from the tabular statements, I was able under the authority of C.S.O. 1122 to obtain that object in several instances.

7.—The total number of claims—

(a) In which the Government offer was accepted was 33.

(b) In which a settlement subject to no order as to costs was effected without going to the Board was 6, leaving:

(c) 39 claims dealt with by the Board.

8. The following statement shows the amounts claimed, offered, accepted, or awarded in each of the above classifications (excluding the Tung Wa Hospital claim):—

(a) Claimed \$297,577, accepted \$244,797.

(b) Claimed \$94,850, offered \$71,444, accepted \$74,700.

(c) Claimed \$624,773, offered \$363,524, awarded \$443,600.

9.—The Board were therefore only called upon to decide the value of the properties resumed in 39 claims in which the amount claimed was \$624,773, offered \$363,524, awarded \$443,600.

The difference in the amounts offered and awarded being \$90,076, or 21 per cent. more than the Government offered.

10.—Costs were awarded to the claimants in 24 cases, against the claimants in two cases, and no order was made as to costs in the remaining cases.

11.—The costs, including those of the arbitration, will no doubt bear a considerable proportion to the difference between the amounts offered and those awarded, and it is to be regretted that in several instances the claimants did not approach the Government with a view to settlement for amounts approximately near those awarded.

12.—The only claims which I wish to draw especial attention to are numbers 8 and 14 and 77; the first was for a ruined temple in Taipingshan Street, the second for the premises occupied as a school by the Italian Sisters, and the last for a chapel belonging to the London Mission.

13.—In each of these cases exceptional terms were claimed on account of the special nature of the occupation, and in the case of the temple on account of the "sacredness of the site." And I would state that I did not feel justified in using the authority granted me in C.S.O. 1122 to take such matters into consideration in attempting to settle the claims by going beyond the value of the properties ascertained from comparison with the adjoining properties.

14.—In each case I had offered, if the scheme for the improvement of Taipingshan admitted of it, to recommend to the Government the restoration of the properties or the granting of similar sites with allowances for rebuilding.

15.—As no definite arrangement was at once practicable, owing to the improvement project not yet being settled, the Board decided that they had better hear the parties and make alternative awards.

The only claim settled at present on the above lines is No. 25, viz., that of the Tung Wa Hospital, in respect of Inland Lot No. 361.

16.—I expect at an early date to be in a position to submit to the Government a project for dealing with a large portion of the resumed area, and in doing which to point out how far the restoration of these sites to the claimants is

practicable.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

FRANCIS A. COOPER,
Director of Public Works,

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

THE WATER ACCOUNT.

The following statement of Water Account to 31st December, 1894, was laid before the Legislative Council on Wednesday, the 20th inst. :—

Statement of Water Account to 31st December, 1894.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
Treasury in account with Water Account.	\$ c.	\$ c.
To balance	76,857.63	
To maintenance of water works.	7,987.92	
To city of Victoria water works (new water mains)	1,134.15	
To Kowloon water supply	60,969.05	
To cash payments by Treasury for water account	325.44	
To stores	2,377.14	
By accounts rendered to Treasury \$17,698.97 less \$16.23 written off (C.S.O. 2,358 of 1894)	17,682.74	
By transfer to store account	40	
By rates	62,700.00	
By balance	69,268.09	

149,651.23 149,651.23

FRANCIS A. COOPER,
Water Authority.

March 15th, 1895.

SUPREME COURT.

19th March.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. A. G. WISE,
ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.

A DISPUTED SHARE TRANSACTION.

An action was brought by Mr. R. H. Hill against Mr. J. B. Gomes to recover \$1,103.59 paid by plaintiff in respect of certain shares bought by the defendant.

Mr. J. Hastings (from Mr. V. H. Deacon's office) represented the plaintiff, and Mr. C. D. Wilkinson appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Hastings said that the claim was for the fifth call paid on 50 shares of the Labuk Planting Company. The plaintiff was a member of the firm of Messrs. Bradley & Co., of Swatow and Hongkong, and he had fifty shares in the Labuk Planting Company registered in his name. The scrip for these shares with the blank transfer attached was handed to the defendant on 12th April, 1889. At that time the shares were not fully paid up; in fact, only one or two calls had been made upon them. Nothing further was heard by the plaintiff of these shares until a demand was made on him for a call in 1892. At the request of the liquidators of the Company he had to pay that call. He paid \$750, which was at the rate of \$15 per share, and \$353.59 interest at 12 per cent. per annum from 15th January, 1891, to 20th December, 1894. He now claimed to be indemnified by his purchaser. Counsel's contention was that, on every sale of shares there was an implied contract by the purchaser to indemnify the vendor against all payments of future calls on those shares. The sale of shares implied that the purchaser assumed, from the time of the sale, all the liabilities of the shares.

Mr. Wilkinson—I dispute that under certain circumstances.

Counsel, proceeding, said it was quite immaterial whether the purchaser had parted with the shares, because, as between himself and the second purchaser, there was an absolute contract of indemnity. Evidence was then called.

Mr. R. Richardson produced a general file of attorney. He was a member of the firm of Messrs. Bradley and Co. and a partner of the plaintiff. Plaintiff held 100 shares in the Labuk Planting Co. in his name. He had 50 still in his possession; the remainder he sold through Messrs. Chater and Vernon.

Mr. J. H. Cox, one of the liquidators of the Labuk Planting Company, produced a print of the articles of association, and said that originally Mr. Hill held 100 shares in the company. On 21st December last Mr. Hill paid the fifth call on fifty of his shares; each share was \$15, and the total amount was \$750. He also paid interest at the rate of 12 per cent. from January 15th, 1891, to the date of pay-

ment, and the whole amount was \$1,103.59. Mr. Hill paid the call and interest under pressure; if he had not done so witness would have been obliged to sue him for the amount.

In answer to Mr. Wilkinson witness said that in regard to fifty of the hundred shares in Mr. Hill's name the second and third call were paid by Mr. Brodie, and the fourth by Mr. T. I. Rose, and the fifth by Mr. Hill. Mr. Hill had paid the calls on the other fifty shares.

Mr. P. Jordan, of the firm of Messrs. Chater and Vernon then entered the box. He was about to be examined by Mr. Hastings when he remarked—Before I give evidence I should like to know if I am to be remunerated for this, because my time is valuable.

His Lordship—You put to me a conundrum that I cannot answer.

Witness—Can I put the question—Who subpoenaed me?

His Lordship—You have got your subpoena, and you will find the name at the bottom.

Mr. Hastings—Mr. Jordan has been subpoenaed by the plaintiff, and he will be entitled to his usual fee as allowed by the Registrar.

His Lordship—I do not think you will be entitled to an extra fee—only entitled to a fee as expert. That is a question for the Registrar, and one that I cannot go into.

Mr. Wilkinson—I trust it will not concern me (laughter).

Mr. Hastings—That is a matter to be ascertained hereafter.

Witness then spoke to receiving instructions from Messrs. Bradley and Co. to sell certain Labuk shares. On April 12th, 1889, he sold fifty shares belonging to Mr. Hill to Mr. R. A. Gubbay, a broker, for \$750. As the shares were not fully paid witness particularly mentioned to Mr. Gubbay that he was bound to transfer the shares to the purchaser's name.

In cross-examination witness said that in 1889 there was a brisk business in shares, but he distinctly remembered the transaction. Mr. Hill's name was on the scrip.

Mr. R. A. Gubbay, the broker, said that on 12th April he bought 50 Labuk shares from Messrs. Chater and Vernon for Mr. Gomes. He paid \$750 for the shares, which were delivered to the defendant on 25th April.

This was the case for the plaintiff. Mr. Wilkinson said the defendant did not believe he purchased these shares, and counsel could not go further than that. He did not therefore think it necessary to put the defendant in the witness box.

His Lordship—I do not think so, because I must hold that he bought the shares. Mr. Gomes has forgotten the transaction, for it is impossible to go behind Mr. Gubbay's evidence that the shares were delivered to Mr. Gomes. I dare say Mr. Gomes was doing other transactions and he does not know anything about this one.

Mr. Wilkinson—In that case I shall call no evidence at all.

Mr. Hastings—I produce the cheque given by Mr. Gomes for the shares.

Mr. Hastings then quoted several cases in support of his contentions, and said that when the plaintiff sold the shares to the defendant there was a liability on them, and in buying them the defendant undertook to indemnify plaintiff against the liability when he should be called upon to pay it.

Mr. Wilkinson, for the defence, said that admitting for the sake of argument that these particular shares were sold by the plaintiff through his brokers to the defendant through his broker, the defendant was not liable upon the authority of the cases cited by Mr. Hastings. A blank transfer was handed over to him, and that transfer the defendant was never called upon to execute and did not execute. The plaintiff parted with the shares before any call had been made upon them.

His Lordship—But not before any liability.

Mr. Wilkinson contended that the position of affairs was exactly the same as in certain cases which were in his favour. He further submitted that the person with whom the plaintiff dealt was Mr. Gubbay, and that there was no contract at any time between the plaintiff and the defendant.

His Lordship—In respect of this case, under ordinary circumstances, as there have been many cases cited, I should have reserved my decision, but I think the point should be settled at once. I shall give judgment for the plaintiff with costs. It is a very important

question and one which I shall be very happy to see an appeal in. I will then give my reasons for the judgment. At present I do not feel inclined to give them. I may say, Mr. Wilkinson, with all due deference to you, that I have not been impressed with the force of your argument. I do not mean by that that it was ridiculous.

20th March.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. W. M. GOODMAN,
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.

BELILIOS v. NG LEE SENG.

The following decision was delivered in Chambers by His Honour Acting Chief Justice Goodman—In this case the completion of certain dwelling houses, then in course of erection, was prevented and delayed for some ten months by an interim injunction granted, on the 14th October, 1892, at the instance of Mr. Belilios and upon his giving the usual undertaking for damages. Eventually the injunction was, on 25th August, 1893, dissolved by the Court, by consent of the parties, it appearing from an English decision that Mr. Belilios could not in point of law support his claim for "ancient lights" as against the defendant. The completion of the houses having thus been wrongfully delayed the question of damages was referred to the Registrar, who conducted a long and careful inquiry and on the 3rd November, 1894, certified the amount of such damages as he allowed. It seems, however, that the defendant's legal advisers were dissatisfied with that certificate on two points. They were not satisfied with (a) the refusal of the Registrar to allow a large claim for interest on money borrowed by the building contractor for payment of workmen and carrying out the contract, and (b) the refusal of the Registrar to allow an item of claim for "10 months rent of premises at \$400 per month," i.e., rent which the defendant alleges would have been obtained if the buildings could have been

completed 10 months earlier than they were, the matter 10 months having been caused, the defendant alleges, by the interim injunction. Being so dissatisfied, but raising no other objections to any other items disposed of by the Registrar, the defendant's solicitor took out summons to take the opinion of the Acting Chief Justice upon the certificate and asking for an order that the certificate might be reviewed, altered. On the hearing of the summons before Mr. Francis, Q.C., appearing in support of a by application and Mr. Leach, Q.C. (Acting A.G.), appearing to oppose it, I intimated my opinion that the claim for interest could not be supported, and Mr. Francis having agreed to abandon that item of claim, all that remains is to dispose of the claim for rent. The summons as regards that matter asks that the certificate may be reviewed or altered in the following respect:— "By finding that the defendant has sustained (over and above the loss and damage certified and allowed by the Acting Registrar) loss and damage by reason of the stoppage of the building operations from the said 14th day of October, 1892, to the said 25th day of August, 1893, and was kept out of the rents and profits thereof for the said period and ought to be allowed compensation on the basis of the letting value of the said buildings"—and asks for an order referring the said certificate back to the Acting Registrar to take further evidence (if necessary) and assess the damages on the above footing. The case of *Smith v. Day*, L.R. 21, Ch. D. p. 421, was cited by counsel on both sides. That case decided at when the defendant alleged he lost the benefit of an advantageous special agreement to take part of his premises at a rental for 7 years owing to an interim injunction which prevented their completion for some months, he could not recover that special loss as damages, even if he could prove it, because such a loss is too remote. It is not one which is the proximate and natural result of the interim injunction and no notice of the existence of the special agreement had been given to the plaintiff in the action. As Brett, L.J., put it (page 428)—"The fact that the injunction prevented the carrying out of an entirely independent agreement as to the property is too remote." The question whether, where no such special loss is claimed, a claim for loss of the value of the expectation of ordinary rent from ordinary tenants ought to be admitted was not decided.

Indeed, as in that case there were special circumstances, such as undue delay, which prevented the Court from granting any inquiry at all, only the one item, the special damages, came in question for decision. I am not aware of any express decision upon this point. Can the owner of the houses the completion of which has been wrongfully delayed by an interim injunction recover damages for being deprived of the chance of obtaining ordinary reasonable rent from the date when but for such injunction the houses would have been finished ready for letting, and for so long as such completion was delayed solely by that wrongful injunction? One must decide therefore upon principle and analogy. Admitting that as stated in *Kerr on Injunctions*, 3rd ed. p. 639, "The damages must be confined to the loss which is the natural consequence of the injunction, under the circumstances of which the party obtaining the injunction had notice," the question arises:—"Was not the natural consequence" of the injunction delay of completion and postponement of the chance of letting? The houses must clearly have been built either for letting or else for the owner's own use and occupation. In *Smith v. Day, Brett, L. J.*, says (p. 48):—"If anyone obtains an injunction preventing another from proceeding with a building he must be taken to have notice of everything in the building contract." If so, must not Mr. Belilios be taken to have had notice that the defendant stipulated under penalties of \$10 a day, for completion on 11th November, 1892, or, in other words, must not Mr. Belilios be taken to have notice that the defendant attached much importance to the early completion of the buildings. What is the "natural consequence" of preventing that early completion but loss to the owner either of use and occupation or of the chance of obtaining a reasonable rent. In this case it was not suggested the owner intended to live in the premises himself, so the question is narrowed down to this—was not the "natural consequence" of the delay caused by the injunction loss to the owner of the value of the expectation of reasonable rent during the period of such enforced delay? In the case of *In re Trent v. Humber Co.*, ex parte *Cambrian Steam Packet Co.*, L. R. 6, Equity cases, p. 396, it was held that where a ship contracted to be repaired in a certain time was not completed and delivered till long after, one item of damage to be allowed was the net profits which under all the circumstances the company might have obtained by chartering the vessel if she had been delivered at the proper time. In that case the counsel for the *Cambrian Co.* says at p. 402:—"We show that we had in contemplation a charter party for the ship at the rate of £320 a month and although it is admitted that we cannot recover from the *Trent Company* the whole rate of freight which could have been obtained on a contract so special in character we claim that which represents the mean ordinary rate of freight during the period which the default of the *Trent Company* has deprived us of the use of the ship, in other words the average profit which would result from the ordinary use of the article for the purpose to which the *Trent Company* understood and intended it would be applied. And he then quotes *Cory v. Thames Ironworks Company*, L. R. 3 Q. B. 181. It may not be easy to assess the loss occasioned by being deprived of the opportunity of letting the premises for ten months, but as *Cockburn, C. J.*, said in *Simpson v. London and North Western Railway Co.*, 1 Q. B. D. 274, where it was alleged that it was impossible to ascertain the damages, "I think there is no such impossibility. To some extent no doubt there must be matters of speculation, but at all." It would be very unreasonable if a man has sunk a large sum of money in house-building and just before the time when he expects to receive the profits of his investment in the shape of rent the completion of the premises is to be wrongfully stopped and the man is to be told perhaps if you had been allowed to complete you might not have found tenants so the damage is too speculative to permit of your recovering any compensation. In the case of *Schlesenger v. Bedford*, Weekly Notes for 1893, p. 57, an actor was wrongfully prevented by injunction from performing his dramatized version of "The Woman in White" on a provincial tour he contemplated undertaking. Thereupon he gave up the tour, which, however, he might have gone on

with, performing the rest of the plays, omitting only the "Woman in White." In this case his loss must have been very difficult to prove; it could only be a matter of speculation and probabilities, but he was awarded damages assessed at £1 a week during the continuance of the injunction. On the whole I am of opinion that the defendant has sustained damage by reason of the stoppage of the building operations by the interim injunction by being deprived of the chance of obtaining ordinary reasonable rent from the date when but for such injunction the houses would have been finished ready for letting and for so long as such completion was delayed solely by that wrongful injunction; and I am of opinion he ought to be allowed compensation for such loss. I therefore direct the certificate to be referred back to the Acting Registrar to take further evidence (if he deems it necessary) and to assess the damage accordingly. I make no order as to costs as each party has partially succeeded and I certify for counsel.

26th March.

IN APPEAL.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

TANG KIT SHANG v. NG PAK TO.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennis, appeared for Ng Pak To, the appellant, and the Hon. A. J. Leach, Q.C., instructed by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master, for Tang Kit Shang, the respondent.

The Chief Justice delivered judgment as follows:—This is an appeal to the full Court by the defendant in the above suit against a judgment given against him for \$200 and costs. It appeared that at the time the \$200 was lent to him he was under 21, although he was over that age when the writ of summons was issued. The money was not lent for the purchase of necessities, and if he could set up a plea of infancy in the Supreme Court, sitting in the exercise of its Summary Jurisdiction, he would have a good defence. The learned Judge held that plea could not be set up in Summary Jurisdiction and gave judgment against the defendant. Thereupon the defendant appealed. The appeal is on a case stated by the parties under section 41 of the Supreme Court Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance, 1873, and the question of law which the full Court has to decide is:—(a) Whether section 11 of Ordinance of 1873 does away with the plea of infancy in the Summary Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court; or (b) whether such section applies to procedure only by enabling an infant to sue or be sued without a next friend or guardian *ad litem*. The words of section 11 are as follows:—"No person shall be precluded or exempted from suing or being sued for any debt or damages not exceeding \$1,000, by reason of his not having attained the full age of 21 years or by reason of coverture where the husband shall not be resident in the colony." In the particular case before us the relevant words are as follows:—"No person shall be precluded or exempted from being sued for any debt or damages not exceeding one thousand dollars by reason of his not having attained the full age of twenty-one years." Mr. Francis, Q.C., for the appellant contended, in substance, that those words really meant only this—that it was not necessary to appoint a guardian *ad litem* where an infant was sued in the Summary Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court; while Mr. Leach, Q.C., with whom was Mr. Sharp, for the respondent, contended the true interpretation of the words was that they did away with the plea of infancy in summary jurisdiction and that such a defence could not be there set up. When the words of this section are traced back in the local Ordinance it will be found that they occur as far back as in section 1 of Ordinance 9 of 1845. That was an Ordinance to invest the Supreme Court with summary jurisdiction in certain cases, and recited that "it was expedient that debts and damages of a small and trifling amount should be recoverable in the Supreme Court in a summary and expeditious manner." It conferred the summary jurisdiction in certain cases not exceeding \$100 and it contained a proviso precisely similar to section 11 of Ordinance 14 of 1873. The limit in Summary Jurisdiction had risen between 1845 and 1873 from \$100 to \$1,000, but, in my opinion, the words of section 11 mean precisely the same as those of the proviso in section of Ordinance

9 of 1845; and the meaning I attach to that proviso is that it prevents the question being raised in the Summary Jurisdiction whether plaintiff or defendant has attained the full age of 21 years or whether the plaintiff or defendant is a married woman, where the husband is not resident in the colony. Defences of infancy and coverture are, in the English county courts, defences of which special notice has to be given, and to enable the truth of such pleas to be tested the county court rules required "the place and date of birth" to be set out in the notice of special defence of infancy; while they also required the place and date of marriage together with the Christian names and surname of the husband and his address and description so far as known to be stated in the notice of the defence of coverture. One can well understand the difficulty in this colony in the year 1845 of testing the truth of a plea of infancy where the place of birth would obviously not be Hongkong, which had then been so recently ceded to England. The like difficulty would arise as to the plea of coverture, where the husband was not resident in Hongkong. I can therefore see at least no antecedent improbability that, in face of this difficulty and considering the balance of convenience, the Legislature should, in cases of trifling amount, prevent the raising of these defences at all. When, moreover, section 25 of Ordinance 14 of 1873, which deals with notice of special defences, is referred to one would certainly have expected to find "infancy" and "coverture" specially mentioned among the others, unless it had been intended that they were not to be set up at all, owing to section 11. Again, while the sections beginning with No. 20 are grouped under the heading "Summary Procedure and Practice," it is to be observed that section 11 is one of four sections grouped under another heading, viz., "Summary Jurisdiction at Law," which looks as if it was intended to deal with more than the mere question of procedure, whether a guardian *ad litem* must be appointed, for instance. Without, however, attaching undue importance to minor matters, and looking at the Ordinance as it is to ascertain the fair meaning of the section, I hold that in this case section 11 prevented the plea of infancy being set up in summary jurisdiction at all, and did not merely mean that a guardian *ad litem* was made unnecessary. I do not think the section means that while the defendant may be sued the suit is to be defeated by his alleging he had not attained the full age of 21. So far as I am able to ascertain that has been the view of the section hitherto taken by the judges exercising summary jurisdiction, so that my decision in no way alters the practice hitherto prevailing. In the circumstances I consider the appeal should be dismissed with costs.

Mr. A. G. Wise, Acting Puisne Judge, concurred.

ST. PATRICK'S DANCE.

To say that St. Patrick's Dance, which was given in the City Hall on the 18th inst. was brimful of joy and merriment savours somewhat of tautology. Irishmen do not—could not—celebrate their Saint's day in a half-hearted manner; it is a characteristic of their race that when they undertake to commemorate any important event connected with the history of their native country they accomplish the pleasing task in a manner that is absolutely free from blemish. Their patriotism is too deep seated for a meagre display of their enthusiasm, and one can always rely upon receiving a hearty welcome to anyone of their celebrations. The success of Monday night's dance was complete. A gorgeous show was not attempted, because as Major Moore, the indefatigable honorary secretary, modestly remarked, "this is a dance Mackay on the the hall presented a deluge dribble in his appearance. There was the left Campbell and social re-unions, to ender themselves dancing room; there game. An attack the hall look bright on stopped by the take part in the dance and Maitland, the hall by a feeling of right wing and a shot room was a binn which was received by and shamrock effectually sent it away, other end weight into the mouth of the land, and Seating and Pratt then cleared Separabit" forwards to make progress in to the hon. Shelford having carried decorated the field then passed to Arbut.

liberal supply of laurel strings, the whole being commanded, as it were, by a very handsome green banner bidding a hundred thousand welcomes, the words reading "Cead mille failte," and there was also beautifully worked upon it in silk a harp surrounded by a wreath of shamrock. A very good feature of the ball-room was the pink globes on the central chandelier, which had the effect of diffusing a pleasing soft light, not to mention the blushes the pink light threw upon the cheeks of the ladies. Harps were placed all round the room, and of course "Erin go bragh" was a conspicuous motto. Altogether there were about 450 guests present, and the dancing was kept up until about two o'clock on Tuesday morning. The guests were sumptuously entertained, and the highest praise is due to Major Moore and the other officials who so admirably carried out the arrangements.

The following were the Committees—
Dance Committee—Mr. T. Jackson, Chairman, Mr. A. Coxon, Mr. S. L. Darby, Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., Mr. R. B. Garde, R.N., Dr. Hartigan, Lieutenant May, R.N., Major G. K. Moore, A.P.D., Colonel Mulloy, R.E., Mr. E. D. Le P. Power, R.E., Surgeon Colonel Preston, M.S., Mr. E. D. Sanders, Mr. L. T. Sanderson, R.B., and Mr. A. K. Travers.

Sub-Committee—Major Moore, Mr. S. L. Darby, Mr. E. D. Sanders, Lieut. L. T. Sanderson, and Lieutenant May.

Wine, Supper, etc.—Major Moore and Mr. S. L. Darby.

Decorations—Mr. E. D. Sanders, Lieutenant L. T. Sanderson, and Lieutenant May.

The following was the programme, the music being supplied by the band of the Rifle Brigade:—

Lancers	Utopia.
Polka	Santiago.
Polka	Suspinal.
Polka	Darkies' Dream.
Polka	Venetian.
Polka	River of Years.
Polka	Brio & Brac.
Polka	El Dorado.
Polka	Tansulanten.
Lancers	Round the Town.
Polka	Toreador.
Polka	Faust up to Date.
Polka	My Sweetheart.
Polka	Venetia.
Polka	Bid me Good bye.
Polka & Galop	Con Amore & Harum Scaram Galop.

SERIOUS FIRE IN BONHAM STRAND.

About eight o'clock on Monday night a fire, which proved a very serious one, broke out at 96, Bonham Strand, a shop occupied by a rattan and bamboo dealer. The Fire Brigade, under the superintendence of Mr. H. E. Wodehouse, attended as quickly as possible, and found that the upper storey, which was well stocked with bamboo and rattan, was on fire. The brigade had considerable difficulty in working, inasmuch as there were no flames; the fire smouldered and consequently huge volumes of smoke belched forth and hampered the firemen. All the available hose was brought into play, but the efforts of the men could not prevent the fire spreading to the adjoining shops—98, a crockery shop, 94 and 92, a medicine shop, and 127, Morrison Street. All these shops suffered considerably, particularly in the upper storeys, where the fire was principally confined. The premises at 90, Bonham Strand, a medicine shop, and Nos. 123, 125, and 127, Jervoise Street were damaged by water. The premises are insured as follows—96, Bonham Strand, \$4,000 in Messrs. Schellhass & Co. (total loss; the renewing premium was paid only on Saturday); 98, Bonham Strand, \$7,000 in Messrs. Sander & Co.; 92 and 94, \$25,000 in Messrs. Meyer & Co. and owing to the fact, Siemssen & Co. (unable to put anything hand water); 90, \$5,000 the field, and as a consequence Co.; 127, Jervoise fairly well represented, Lander & Co.; and 123 an innings and 23 runs. A. Schellhass & Co. great measure to the total Strand is insured gimental team in their first origin of the fire side being put out for the p score of 26. Le and Dar— sponsible for this— ang is in the In their second venture ed that the much better show and were not all interdicted the telegraph board showed 197 to utbreak of Towards this total Lysley contribute breaks

HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE CO., LIMITED.

On Saturday, at noon, the ninth annual general meeting of the Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Limited, was held at the offices of Messrs. J. D. Humphreys and Son, Governing Directors. Mr. J. D. Humphreys presided, and there were also present—Messrs. W. D. Sutton, A. P. Nobbs, Capt. W. E. Clement, J. A. Jupp, G. C. Cox, A. H. Manceff, G. T. Veitch, Henry Humphreys, and Hart Buck (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN—You have no doubt already perused the report and statement of accounts and with your sanction we will take them as read. I think I am quite justified in saying that the prospects of the Company have vastly improved during the past year. (Hear hear). The land that has been lying idle for a great number of years, and upon which you have been paying large sums for Crown rents, has now come into strong demand, and I have no hesitation in saying that I believe that within a period of perhaps two years you will not have an inch of land that is not occupied and remunerative. You have a large estate in Kowloon (hear, hear); in fact you own the heart of the Kowloon Peninsula. I think I have already stated the road frontage and the area of the land, and I need not repeat it. We are actively at work over there at the present moment; in point of fact we cannot build fast enough. The other big estate—the Richmond Estate—will be fully built upon before the end of the present year. These two estates—the Richmond Estate and the Kowloon Estate—are quite enough for any one land company to deal with, and I propose to get out of all the other land we hold—the odd lots here and there—and to concentrate all our energies upon the two that are best worth dealing with, which of course is a great saving, as you will understand, in point of time and supervision. I do not think I need say any more, but I shall be very pleased to answer any questions. No questions being asked, I beg to propose the adoption of the report and statement of accounts as presented to this meeting.

Mr. VEITCH—I have much pleasure in seconding.

Carried.
The CHAIRMAN proposed, and Captain CLEMENT seconded, the re-election of Mr. Fullerton Henderson as auditor for the ensuing year.

Carried.
The CHAIRMAN—There is nothing more, gentlemen, but to thank you for your attendance. The dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the China and Manila Steamship Company was held on Saturday at noon in the offices of the General Managers, Messrs. Shewan and Co. Mr. R. Shewan presided, and there were present—Messrs. D. Gillies, J. S. Moses, N. A. Siebs (Consulting Committee), W. H. Potts, J. H. Cox, H. Crawford, C. A. Tomes, and W. Shewan.

Mr. W. SHEWAN read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—If you have no objection the report and accounts which were issued to shareholders some time ago will now be taken as read. The dividend we propose to pay is an improvement upon last year's, and considering all the circumstances and the difficulties we had to contend with during the greater part of the year, owing to the prevalence of the plague here and consequent quarantine at Manila, I trust you will consider the result fairly satisfactory. In an ordinary year with ordinary expenses and the earnings we should have shown a better result, but when you consider that for some considerable time the steamers had to waste fifteen days, or just half a month, in quarantine at Manila every time they went there, earning nothing, with quarantine and the usual running expenses just the same, you will see that our profit had of necessity to be greatly reduced. Compared with last year the steamers' gross earnings are about \$25,000 less, owing chiefly to the Zafiro being off the line for two months on account of her accident, while their expenses are

some \$20,000 more, the increase being in the following items:—

Marine Insurance, owing to our having raised the insured value in dollars of the boats in view of the fall in exchange, which has increased their laid-down cost here, say,	\$2,000
Coal, which as you all know became very much dearer on the outbreak of hostilities between China and Japan	\$3,500
Quarantine and other expenses at Manila	\$5,000
Claims for damaged and deficient cargo at Manila	\$6,000
These were unusually heavy last year, but we are glad to say that steps have been taken which we think will prevent a recurrence of them in future at any rate to such an extent as this, and Extra Stores and Provisions consumed during quarantine	\$1,500
Wages, the fall in exchange having rendered it necessary to raise the wages of officers and engineers in dollars, say	\$5,000

A total of\$23,000 against which there was a saving of about \$3,000 on the other hand in various items. This makes a total of \$45,000, which is, roughly speaking, the difference of \$46,000 odd between the profit on the working of the steamers this year and last. Uncollected freights you will observe have been reduced from \$41,500 outstanding on 31st December, 1893, to \$16,700 at the same date last year. Of this amount the greater portion has already been paid in and the remainder will be collected in due course by the end of this month. The other items in the accounts speak for themselves and require, I think, no explanation at my hands. I shall be glad to answer any questions any shareholder may wish to put to me.

No questions having been put, the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. W. H. POTTS seconded.
Carried.

Mr. J. H. COX moved and Mr. H. CRAWFORD seconded the re-election of the Consulting Committee.

Carried.
Mr. TOMES moved and Mr. MOSES seconded the re-election of Messrs J. H. Cox and T. Arnold as auditors.

Carried.
The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that is all the business of the meeting. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LIMITED.

The eleventh ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company was held on Saturday at the offices of the General Managers (Messrs. Shewan & Co.) Mr. R. Shewan presided, and there were also present—Messrs. D. Gillies, J. S. Moses (Consulting Committee), W. Shewan, D. T. Donald, Ross Thomson, and C. A. Tomes.

Mr. W. SHEWAN read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some time now, you are all doubtless familiar with their contents and with your permission they will be taken as read. The General Managers are very gratified at being able to submit so favourable a report for the past year, but at the same time they wish to emphasize the fact that it was an exceptional year and offered us exceptional chances. It is not likely that such a demand as we had from the North and from Japan at the outbreak of the war will soon occur again, and although our general business is increasing it does so but slowly and it will probably be some time yet before we can rely upon the ordinary demand to keep us fully employed all the year round. The dividend paid this year should therefore not be taken as forming a precedent, but the extra 6 per cent, which we are paying over and above our usual 12 per cent, must be regarded in the light of a bonus from an unusually good year. There is nothing I think in the accounts that requires special explanation. Interest is now on the right side, as we have a balance et credit instead of a debit with our bankers, and repairs to machinery have cost about the same as last year, while for depreciation we have written off \$10,000, as before. Before moving the adoption of the report

and accounts I shall be happy to answer any question that may be put.

Mr. DONALD—Is the working account open to the inspection of shareholders?

The CHAIRMAN—The books of the Company are open by the Articles of Association.

Mr. DONALD—But not the working account?

The CHAIRMAN—No.

No other questions were asked and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. THOMSON seconded.

Carried.

Mr. TOMES moved the re-election of the Consulting Committee, Messrs Gillies, Shewan, Lewis, and Moses.

Mr. Thomson seconded.

Carried.

Mr. GILLIES moved and Mr. TOMES seconded the re-election of the auditors, Messrs F. Henderson and T. Arnold.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentleman, I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be issued on Monday.

CRICKET.

ROYAL NAVY v. RIFLE BRIGADE.

This match was played on the 20th inst. between teams consisting entirely of officers. The Rifle men were victorious, thanks to various causes, which may be classed as follows:—(1) Mr. Percival's magnificent innings of 106. (2) The debut of a small colt bowler who scattered the Naval wickets with considerable skill. It may be mentioned that the presence and action of this bowler are calculated to strike terror into the breast of the most "Garde'd" player. (3) The appearance on the field of several hitherto unknown players, who, if their aggregate scores were not colossal, still carried a considerable moral effect with them. Capt. Stewart's fielding at point was a most finished performance, particularly after the bell rang at five o'clock. Talbot's catch, which dismissed the stalwart Commander, was very good. It was hard luck on the aforesaid stalwart Commander, as we believe he was on the point of making some more runs. For the Navy Garde played with great confidence, and made his runs as quickly as usual. It must be recorded that one of the audience remarked that Mr. Percival's century was the first he had seen on the ground, which, as the said member of the audience has only just arrived, is not surprising. May many more delight his eyes!

RIFLE BRIGADE.

G. Lysley, c Arbuthnot b Thring	39
C. Percival, c James b Arbuthnot	106
A. D. Boden, b Arbuthnot	21
Capt. Eccles, b Warrender	25
D. Power, c Thring, b Garde	1
G. Paley, b Arbuthnot	12
G. N. Salmon, b Arbuthnot	0
S. C. Long, b Garde	4
Major Hon. E. Noel, b Arbuthnot	3
F. G. Talbot, b Arbuthnot	11
Capt. Stewart, not out	1
Extras	1

ROYAL NAVY.

First Innings.	Second Innings.
Mr. Sir H. K. Arbuthnot, b Eccles	4
Mr. B. Garde, b Boden	53
Mr. W. C. H. Thring, b Lysley	16
Capt. Winslow, c Paley, b Boden	4
Mr. T. C. Smyth, b Boden	0
Mr. H. W. James, b Lysley	3
Com. Warrender, c Talbot, b Boden	1
Mr. E. L. Leatham, not out	10
Mr. M. Steel, b Lysley	0
Mr. W. Skelton, b Lysley	0
Mr. P. Power, c Lysley	1
Extras	1

THE CLUB v. THE RIFLE BRIGADE.

The return match between the Club and the Rifle Brigade was deprived of a good deal of the interest which would otherwise have attached to it owing to the fact that the latter were unable to put anything like their full strength into the field, and as a consequence the Club, who were fairly well represented, won a one-sided game by an innings and 23 runs. This result was due in great measure to the total collapse of the regimental team in their first innings, the whole side being put out for the phenomenally small score of 26. Lawson and Darby were chiefly responsible for this havoc, the former taking 5 wickets for 14 runs and the latter 5 for 8. In their second venture the Rifles made a much better show and were not all out until the telegraph board showed 197 to their credit. Towards this total Lysley contributed an excel-

lently played and at times freely hit innings of 84 before he was bowled by Ericombe Smith. Eccles and Sergt. Burton also made substantial contributions to the score, putting on 41 for the first wicket. Vallings was the most successful bowler this time, with 5 wickets for 40 runs. The total of 246 knocked up by the Club was chiefly due to the efforts of E. W. Maitland, Darby, and Mast with 42, 54, and 62 respectively. The partnership of the latter two carried the score from 161 to 240, Mast in particular seeming to find the bowling very much to his liking. Lysley bowled throughout the Club's innings. He kept an excellent length and eventually came out with the very respectable analysis of 7 wickets for 90 runs. By the courtesy of Major Hon. E. Noel and the officers of the Rifle Brigade and of Colonel Barrow and the officers of the Hongkong Regiment the bands of their regiments played upon the ground during the afternoons of Friday and Saturday.

RIFLE BRIGADE.

First Innings.	Second Innings.
C. Percival, b Darby	4
Sergt. Burton, b Lawson	5
G. Lysley, b Lawson	0
Capt. Eccles, b Darby	0
A. D. Boden, b Lawson	0
G. Paley, c Campbell, b Lawson	2
S. C. Long, c Sheldon, b Darby	2
Corpl. McKory, c Mast, b Darby	0
Lord C. Conyngham, not out	1
Sergt. Shearing, b Darby	0
Pte. Pilbeam, b Lawson	6
Extras	6

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs.	Mds.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wkts.
First Innings.					
Lawson	11	3	14	—	5
Darby	10	2	8	—	5
Second Innings.					
Darby	12	3	32	—	1
Maitland	8	1	35	—	—
Lawson	13	1	35	—	2
Vallings	15	4	40	—	5
Elliott	3	—	10	—	—
Powell	5	—	19	—	1
Smith	4	—	10	—	1

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

J. A. Lawson, c and b Lysley	25
E. W. Maitland, c and b Eccles	42
R. Garde, c N.E. c Shearing, b Lysley	19
G. D. Campbell, c Paley, b Lysley	7
S. L. Darby, b Lysley	54
Rev. G. Vallings, b Lysley	20
T. S. Smith, c and b Lysley	0
H. M. Elliott, c N.E. c McKory	1
E. Mast, b W. b Burton	62
B. P. Sheldon, b Lysley	1
S. Powell, not out	0
Extras	6

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs.	Mds.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wkts.
G. Lysley	41	9	90	—	7
W. Pilbeam	13	4	45	—	—
A. D. Boden	5	—	19	—	—
Eccles	11	—	57	—	1
McKory	6	3	17	—	1
Burton	5	1	14	—	1

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

FIFTEENTH RACE.

Course.—From the submarine Mining Pier, Wellington Barracks, round a mark boat off Lyeemoon, Kowloon Rock, No. 1 Dock Buoy, mark boat off Lyeemoon, and No. 1 Dock Buoy (leaving all to port); 15 miles.

STARTERS: FIRST CLASS.

Payne	Royal Engineers
Dart	Dr. Lawson
Ladybird	Mr. C. D. Wilkinson
Erica	Mr. A. Der
Stella	Capt. Stirling J.C.

SECOND CLASS.

She	Mr. C. H. Gale
Seabreeze	Surg. Major Westcott
Elfin	Mr. G. P. Lamport

The race on the 24th inst. produced most excellent sport and ultimately resulted in a win for the Dart, which places her first for the Championship, notwithstanding that three more races have to be sailed. The wind was a steady breeze from the East, occasionally increasing to wholeness strength. A good start was effected. Stella, Dart, and Payne being to windward of Erica and Ladybird. The three former boats stood over to the Kowloon shore, where there was evidently more wind, whilst Ladybird and Erica kept to the south side most of the way out to Lyeemoon. The wind settled down into a good sailing breeze, which kept up during the whole day until the boats were within a few hundred yards of the winning post. It would have done Major Eytton's heart good to see the way his old boat led the procession out to Lyeemoon, at which mark Dr. Lawson had the

satisfaction of leading the Payne by almost two hundred yards. Times:—

	H.	M.	S.
Dart	12	25	15
Payne	12	27	15
Ladybird	12	30	35
Erica	12	32	55
Stella	12	33	50

On the run to Kowloon Rock a jibe was necessary. The Payne made up ground on the leader and the two boats rounded the mark with only a few seconds difference between them. It was a reach to the No. 1 Dock buoy, which was rounded as follows:—

	H.	M.	S.
Dart	1	8	25
Payne	1	8	45
Ladybird	1	12	55
Stella	1	18	45
Erica	1	19	40

the ding-dong race between the leading boats continuing all the way. On the second beat to the Lyeemoon the leading boats again made a long leg on starboard tack until close to the mainland shore and scored by so doing, while Ladybird worked the Hongkong shore. Payne almost overhauled Dart owing to a mistake on the part of the latter's skipper, but Dart was still ahead at the mark boat, where she led by about 20 yards only, the times of rounding being:—

	H.	M.	S.
Dart	1	48	15
Payne	1	48	35
Ladybird	1	54	50
Erica	2	2	45
Stella	2	1	5

On the run home via the Dock buoy Payne caught up and passed the skull and crossbones and ran so well that she was about forty seconds to the good when passing the Dock Buoy. However, the treacherous ground of the middle of the harbour lost the Payne the chance of saving her time on Dart and the race was finished in almost a flat calm. Payne crossed the line about two yards ahead of Dart, and Ladybird was a good third.

	H.	M.	S.	4 marks
Payne	2	48	56	10
Dart	2	49	5	10
Ladybird	2	54	6	1
Stella	3	0	32	—
Erica	3	3	25	—

Payne, Stella, and Ladybird allow Dart and Erica 1 min. 5 secs.

In the second class a capital race was also witnessed, but here the Seabreeze with her large handicap won easily, the boats crossing the winning line as follows:—

	H.	M.	S.
She (4 marks)	3	8	14
Seabreeze (10 marks)	3	10	47
Elfin (1 mark)	3	14	28

Elfin allows She 2 minutes and Seabreeze 14 minutes.

The scores now stand as follow:—

1st Class.	2nd Class.
Dart	95
Erica	62
Payne	52
Stella	15
Petrel	15
Ladybird	4
Elfin	62
She	54
Kitten	29
Seabreeze	31
Mary Ann	10

Dart thus takes the Championship for the second year in succession, with three races still in hand, and Dr. Lawson is to be heartily congratulated on his success.

FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB v. THE NAVY.

This match came off on Thursday afternoon at the Happy Valley and was fairly well contested. The Naval team was not thoroughly representative as three substitutes were played; one of these as custodian defended well. The Club kicked off against a strong breeze which blew right down the Valley, and at once made an attack on the Naval citadel. Mackay on the right wing began at once to dribble in his excellent style, while on the left Campbell and Firth by short passing rendered themselves dangerous throughout the game. An attack by the Navy having been stopped by the combined play of Ezekiel and Maitland, the ball was trundled up on the right wing and a shot was taken by Mackay which was received by the goal-keeper, who effectually sent it away, only to be returned right into the mouth of the goal by Davies. Sweeting and Pratt then cleared and enabled their forwards to make progress in the other direction. Sheldford having carried the ball well up the field then passed to Arbuth-

not, who, after advancing a short distance, prepared to take a shot, but Ezekiel relieved, the players coming together with considerable pressure. Then Ross Thomson began to display his quality as a half-back and with great judgment supplied the forwards with the ball with great precision, at the same time marking his man in a way that did much to avert danger. From the middle of the field Campbell made a fine run, but getting into difficulties near the corner he passed to Firth, who dribbled it past opposition until a few yards from the post, where he shot it into the net by a well-aimed shot. After a few interchanges the teams crossed over. The Navy now made a series of onslaughts on their opponents' stronghold, Shelford in particular playing a determined and skilful game. Shot after shot was turned aside only by the excellent goal-keeping of Sharp, who had more to do now than at any other part of the game. One was especially difficult to negotiate, being just below the bar, but it was turned aside and a corner conceded, from which nothing came. The ball was returned and Arbutnot sent it forward in such a way that a goal seemed a certainty. Sharp, however, rose to the occasion, and rushing across the mouth of the goal received the ball on his knee and sent it out of danger. Again Pratt passed it to Shelford, who sent it in the desired direction, but glancing from Maitland, the Club's goal keeper again saved. Then Campbell and Firth made a series of well-combined runs, which enabled the other forwards to make several good attempts at adding to the score. On one occasion the former player took the ball almost the length of the field and shooting from the corner the leather was caught by the net, but on the outside. The latter also worked the ball down, and eventually shot it just over the bar. Charug played an excellent game for the Navy and stopped several dangerous runs by skilful and unflinching tackling. Pratt also proved himself a safe and sure kicker, and whether on the offensive or defensive gave much trouble to the Club, while behind him Sweeting cleared on several occasions, when his side was in extremities. A good pass over by Mackay gave the ball to Campbell, who placed it in such a position that after having been passed from one player to another Mackay managed to shoot it through. Play went on again for a few minutes, but nothing further was scored. The Club thus won the match by two goals to nil.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB v. THE GARRISON.

The temperature was over 70 deg. on Tuesday afternoon when these two teams lined up to decide the supremacy in Rugby football. As usual a large concourse was assembled to view this, in all probability the last match of the season, and they were rewarded by seeing a capital struggle from start to finish. The Club were fortunate in winning the toss, as they elected to play with a strong breeze behind them. The Army kicking off soon found the ball returned by Waylen, who at once showed himself a welcome addition to the Club team. From a scrum Edwards managed to dribble almost up the line, where it was stopped only just in time. A good pass from Shelford to Sheldon, then on to Landale, enabled this last player to run from the centre to within five yards of the goal line, where he unfortunately slipped and was forced into touch. From the throw in some good passing on the part of the Club was observed, but eventually a succession of short runs by Salmon, De Vitre, and Stewart landed the ball in the centre. Again from a scrum Bowring with the ball at his feet managed to pass opposition and at length forced Campbell to kick behind, then to touch down. From the scrum, made five yards from the goal line, the Army forced the ball back only to be visited again by Landale, who seemed likely to open the score, but a fine tackle by Davies saved the Army from disaster. Thus the ball was moved backwards and forwards in the Garrison's ground, but try as they could the Club could not get it into the proper quarter, until five minutes from half time Shelford had to remove the ball from touch. This he effected by bouncing on the ground and running in, thus obtaining the first try. Landale took the kick but did not convert, the kick being a difficult one. Restarting, the Military made the game much more even. Capital progress was made by Stewart, who dodging well managed to clear himself from all opposition, excepting Thomson, who was equal to the occasion and

brought the intruder to earth. A good kick by Davies gave Thomson more work, but he saved from going into touch by great skill and considerably advanced his side. Excellent passing from Waylen gave the ball to Sheldon, who having covered considerable ground was tackled and removed from his dangerous position. From mid-field Buzzard caused the Club great anxiety, but at the last moment Potts collared amidst much approbation. Salmon and De Vitre time after time pressed towards the goal and gave considerable trouble. In the scrums Sanders much assisted his side by the vigour of his play. A good dribble by Ezekiel was well stopped by his opponent's rear division, in which Perraw was especially prominent. Harris played well for the Garrison and stopped several dangerous movements. Towards the end Campbell made matters look serious for the Club, but Waylen placed the ball in a safer quarter. Nothing further was scored, the Club thus winning by one try or three points to nil.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Twenty members were present on Saturday to compete for the long range Cup and Spoons. The cup was won by Major Wrottesley for the third time, becoming his own property. The spoons were won by Private Priddle, R.B., Colour-Sergeant Horseman, R.B., Private Woodbridge, R.B., and Private Godbear, R.B. The following were the best scores:—

	800 yds.	900 yds.	H'cap points.	total.
Major Wrottesley	37	40	6	83
Private Priddle, R.B.	41	30	8	79
C-Sgt. Horseman, R.B.	38	32	8	78
Pvt. Woodbridge, R.B.	35	32	8	75
Private Godbear, R.B.	31	35	8	74
Sapper Thompson, R.E.	31	28	12	71
Lieut. Hoey, R.B.	36	28	6	70
Capt. Palmer, O.S.D.	32	31	6	69

HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.

MAXIM GUN CORPS.

Fourteen members turned out on the 16th inst. to shoot in the Company's ninth carbine competition for the Championship Challenge Cup and handicap sweepstakes, which, by the courtesy of the Captain Superintendent of Police, again took place on the Police Range at Kowloon over the 200, 400, and 500 yards' distances. The afternoon though an unfavourable one did not appear to detract from the efficiency of the shooting, which again showed a most distinct and very gratifying improvement.

Gunner Shepherd, who although 9 points behind the leader when firing at the 400 yards range had been completed, came forward with a splendidly made "possible" at the longest distance, which brought him into first place, and secured to him the Cup for the first time, with a most deserving total of 88. The following were the eight best scores:—

	200 yards.	400 yards.	500 yards.	Total.
Gunner Shepherd	30	23	35	88
Gunner Smyth	30	28	31	88
Gunner T. Lammert	28	34	24	86
Gunner G. P. Lammert	27	30	28	85
Sergeant May	24	28	28	78
Gunner Rankin	21	19	20	70
Sergeant Maitland	20	30	16	66
Captain Murray	22	25	18	65

FOOCHOW RACES.

FIRST DAY, Tuesday, 19th March.

The following are the results:—

The SPRING CUP; value \$100; entrance \$5; for all China ponies; weights as per scale. Half a mile.

Kindar	1
Bonton	2
Kinrara	3

Time, 1 min. 4½ secs.

The MAIDEN STAKES; of \$10 each, with \$50 added; for all China ponies that have never run at any meeting; weights as per scale. Three-quarters of a mile.

Mercury	1
Dragonfly	2
Butterfly	3

Time, 1 min. 42 3/5th sec.

The AMOY CUP; presented; value \$100; for all China ponies; weights as per scale; entrance \$5. One mile and three-quarters.

Boldheart	1
Autoorat	2
Steadfast	3

Time, 4 min. 15½ sec.

The KULIANG STAKES; of \$10 each, with \$50 added; for all China ponies; weights as per scale; winners at this meeting 7 lbs. extra. Seven furlongs.

Firefly	1
Bonton	2
Kindar	3

Time, 2 min. 5 secs.

The HACK STAKES; of \$5 each; for all China ponies not otherwise entered; catch weights over 12 stone; jockeys who have never had a winning mount before this meeting in China and/or Hongkong allowed 7 lbs.; ponies that have never won a race allowed 7 lbs. Once round.

Greybeard	1
Santacrus	2

Time, 1 min. 36 secs.

The KUSHAN CUP; value \$100; for all China ponies; weights as per scale; winner at this meeting 7 lbs. extra; entrance \$5. One mile.

Yarra	1
Kingston	2
Wanderer	3

Time, 2 min. 19½ secs.

The RACING STAKES; of \$5 each, with \$50 added for the first and \$25 for the second pony; for all bona fide griffins at date of entry and ponies first raced in Foochow and Amoy as griffins; weights as per scale; winners 7 lbs. extra. One mile and a quarter.

Cander	1
Butterfly	2
Jackdaw	3

Time, 3 min. 3 secs.

The NANTAI STAKES; of \$10 each, divided 70 per cent, 20 per cent. and 10 per cent. to first, second, and third pony. A forced entry for all ponies entered at this meeting except the Hack Stakes; as per scale. One mile and a quarter.

Boldheart	1
Africanus	2
Rafafia	3

Time, 2 min. 58½ secs.

SECOND DAY, Wednesday, 20th March.

The FOOKIEN CUP; value \$100; second pony to receive \$25; third pony \$15. For all China ponies; weights as per scale; winners of one race at this meeting 7 lbs. extra, of two or more races 12 lbs. extra; ponies first raced in Foochow as griffins allowed 7 lbs.; entrance \$5. One mile and a half.

Rafafia	1
Boldheart	2
Autoorat	3

Time, 3 min. 38 secs.

The FOOCHOW DERBY; of \$15 each, with \$100 added; divided 70 per cent., 20 per cent., and 10 per cent. to first, second, and third pony; for all China ponies bona fide griffins at the date of entry; weights as per scale. One mile and a half.

Butterfly	1
Gleaner	2
Dragonfly	3

Time, 3 min. 41½ secs.

The LOTTERY CUP; value \$100; for all China ponies; weights as per scale; winners at this meeting 10 lbs. extra; ponies that have never won a race allowed 7 lbs.; entrance \$5. Three-quarters of a mile.

Democrat	1
Mercury	2
Kindar	3

Time, 1 min. 41 secs.

The PAGODA CUP; value \$100; second pony to receive \$15; for all bona fide griffins at the date of entry, and ponies first raced in Foochow and Amoy as griffins; weight as per scale; winners at this meeting 10 lbs. extra, of two or more race 12 lbs. extra; entrance \$5. Seven furlongs.

Caramel	1
Wanderer	2
Kingrara	3

Time, 2 min. 1 sec.

The CONSOLATION CUP; value \$100, with \$25 added for the second pony; for all bona fide beaten ponies that have run at this meeting and not won a race; weight as per scale; entrance \$5. One mile.

Africanus	1
Kingston	2
Bonbon	3
Time, 2 min. 18½ sec.	
The CHAMPION STAKES; of \$10 each, with \$50 added; a forced entry and open only to winners at this meeting, optional for the winner of the Hack Stakes and Consolation Cup; winners of two races \$15 extra and of more than two races \$25 extra; weights as per scale. One mile and a quarter.	
Yarra	1
Fir-Sy	2
Leander	3
Time, 2 min. 53½ sec.	
The WELTER PLATE; value \$100; for all China ponies; catch weights over 11 stone 7 lbs; non-winners at this meeting allowed 7 lbs; riders who have never won a race allowed 7 lbs.; entrance \$5. Three-quarters of a mile.	
Democrat	1
Kindar	2
Africanus	3
Time, 1 min. 40½ sec.	

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

REGISTRATION OF DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—The recent report of the Captain Superintendent of Police regarding domestic servants touches a chord which most householders acutely feel. That there has been a great deal of apathy shown in the past by employers is doubtless correct, but that is no reason why no further effort should be made to mitigate the evil which all admit is fast increasing.

To return to one's house and find a trusted "boy" absent, and with him valuables, many may be cherished heirlooms, is too frequent in this colony; and as the thieves are regarded as little heroes in their native villages on the mainland, it behoves us to use every endeavour to mitigate the liability to such losses, as there is no moral restraint whatever over would-be plunderers, since they have no character to lose and do not believe in our ideas of right and wrong.

There is another point also in this question which is often overlooked. Many a mistress, timid and gently nurtured, is absolutely afraid of her servants. A case occurred in my experience recently where a cook, having received notice to leave, deliberately poisoned his mistress's pet dog. Others have an idea that they themselves may receive some injury if they give offence to their servants, and endure actual insults from them before they will complain.

But as the necessity of altering the present state of affairs is so apparent, I will not multiply instances of those "ways that are dark," &c., but beg our ruling powers to organise a system of registration of domestic servants without delay, and I for one will be among the first to patronise it—I am, &c.,

HOUSEHOLDER,

Hongkong, 20th March, 1895.

THE CASE OF HILL v. GOMES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—There is an inaccuracy in your report of the case of Hill v. Gomes published in your issue of this morning (20th inst.) His Honour the Acting Puisne Judge did not, as reported by you, make use of the word "ridiculous" in reference to the argument of Mr. Wilkinson. What Mr. Justice Wise did say in his judgment was as follows:—"I may say, Mr. Wilkinson, with all due deference to you, that I have not been impressed with the force of your argument; I mean, of course, from a legal point of view."—Yours faithfully,

JOHN HASTINGS.

Hongkong, 20th March, 1895.

CREMATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Regarding the new Sanitary By-laws approved of and adopted by the Legislative Council on the 20th inst. a certain misapprehension is rife and noticeable as to the interpretation to be attached to by-law 18, and I pen these lines with a view to secure elucidation of the important point involved therein. The by-law states that "the bodies of all persons dying from any epidemic, endemic, infectious, or contagious

disease within the colony, and the bodies of all persons dying from such disease elsewhere which which are brought within the colony shall be buried or cremated in such place to be set apart for that purpose by the Sanitary Board in such manner and with such precautions as shall from time to time be directed by the said Board." This reading is distinctly susceptible of the interpretation that the Sanitary Board is authorised by that by-law to cremate if it deems necessary the bodies of all persons dying from dangerous diseases within the colony. However, I have been assured by a leading member of the Legislative Council, and I take it from him, that the words "or cremated" were added at his suggestion simply to cover the cases of Hindoos who dispose of their dead by cremation and cremation alone, and I also take it from him that the Legislature never meant to go beyond the cover intended. One could not well conceive that such an important question as the question of cremation, affecting as it does the religious feelings and sentiments at a time of deep grief of almost all other nationalities in this colony, could ever be attempted to be disposed of and settled by the Legislative Council without due notification to the public and without evoking and ascertaining their diverse views and opinions upon the matter. However, the wording of the by-law being as it is and leading to no other construction than the one I have ventured to put upon it—and you yourself, Mr. Editor, in your leading article of the 21st instant on the subject of cremation in a manner confirm my view of the interpretation by remarking that "in Hongkong it will be observed that in the new Sanitary By-laws power is conferred on the Sanitary Board to cremate the bodies of persons dying from dangerous diseases, and if that power is to be exercised a proper crematorium should be provided"—and thus taking the by-law as giving a very wide and dangerous latitude to the Sanitary Board, it is but necessary that the by-law should be made to go only up to the intentions of the Legislature and not beyond that. I therefore submit that if the intentions of the Legislature be as I have taken them to be the by-law should be amended, and it should be made clear that if the rites and observances of the nationality of the dead person for the disposal of the dead permit of cremation, then alone cremation should be resorted to.

I submit these observations altogether apart from the question of cremation or anti-cremation. I hold it that the time is not ripe in the East for any discussion of this question with a view to practicability. Even Western thoughts and Western ideas, progressive as they have been, have not been able to go deep enough to uproot the sentiment, deeply imbedded in the heart, of

"Let them alone, all in quiet lie,
Andrew there, and Susan here,
Neighbours in mortality."

—Yours truly,

H. M. MEHTA.

Hongkong, 22nd March.

TYPHOON AT YAP.

A fearful typhoon passed over Yap, in the Caroline Islands, on the 20th ultimo. The wind commenced from the north, with heavy squalls from the north-west, gradually increasing in strength, and after some time it suddenly veered round to S.E. by S. More than two-thirds of the houses, as well as the wharfs, trees, etc., were blown down or carried away by the force of the waves. The foreigners and the Spanish Government are heavy sufferers, most of the stations being completely wrecked. Government House was unroofed and the Governor had his leg injured by a rafter falling on it, while a Roman Catholic church and the residence of the Capuchin Fathers were levelled to the ground, and the Government steam launch, which was lying alongside the wharf, went down when the wharf was washed away. Some idea of the height to which the spray was carried may be formed from the fact that a fresh water tank built on the top of a hill and sixty yards away from the sea was spoiled by salt water. The trees blown down number very many thousands and the copra crop is ruined for at least a year to come. To crown all, the taro plantations are full of rotten leaves and bushes which have been blown into them, and which rot the food in the ground, rendering it unfit for consumption, so that a famine is staring the na-

tives in the face, their principal articles of consumption, coconuts and taro, both being gone. There are Spanish, German, and American trading stations on the island and all have suffered serious loss. Captain O'Keefe, well known in Hongkong, has a station there.

A BROKER'S LOVE LETTER.

A SHANGHAI MATRIMONIAL SUIT.

PRAYERS AND LOVE.

Shanghai has had a sensation in the shape of a matrimonial suit brought by Arthur James Francis Reeks, clerk in the Imperial Maritime Customs at Shanghai, for a judicial separation from his wife, Frances Maud Reeks, on the ground of her misconduct with Byram Rut-tunjee, stock and share broker, of Shanghai, against whom damages were also claimed. The co-respondent did not appear. The amount of damages claimed was £1,300, and the Jury found that the co-respondent had committed adultery with the respondent, and they assessed the damages at the full amount claimed. The Judge awarded costs to the petitioner, and also gave him the custody of the children of the marriage.

In the course of the proceedings the following letter from the co-respondent to the respondent was read, the respondent being at the time it was written in the convent:—

My Maud, my Maud, my own, own dearest, darling, loving wife, Maud—Oh, my love, my life, my all in all! This is Sunday, love, the 3rd, 11 a.m. Darling, I did not write to you till yesterday after I received your most kind and loving note, for although the note was all that, yet I was greatly disappointed with it, for you do not improve in health, darling, and you do not get strong, love, and this makes me very, very melancholy and exceedingly sad. Darling, oh, how I wish you were with me so that we could share one another's pain, and sorrows and weaknesses, and try to cheer up one another. Why should we wait until the 10th of December, I do not know, darling, for your year will be up on the 21st of November, and since leaving me it will be considerably over the year. You left me on the 11th of October. Oh that happy, happy day! Well, love, I read your sad and melancholy note at tiffin. Yes, darling, and after tiffin I felt so sorrowful about you that I went and lay down on the bed. . . . I read your loving note again, while I was lying down and after reading it I feel asleep, darling. When I woke up it was 3 p.m. I thought and thought so much of the events of the past and I prayed to God. As soon as I had read the 2.30 p.m. prayers I went to the Club and washed my hands and eyes. There were only two other men in the Club. These were reading, so you can imagine what kind of a time I had, darling. At 4.30 p.m. I prayed and then sat in the Club verandah by myself, and there was scarcely any one else about. Well, love, as I sat there what else could I do but think and think of you, my own, my darling. . . . I asked God to unite us and make us one, and let us not be separated from one another. I prayed and asked for God's mercy, and then salt and bitter tears came into my eyes. I was so sad at all this, darling, and having passed such a miserable afternoon, I was truly glad when dinner time came. I came home and took a plate of chow. Waited till 8.30, prayed, then read, but I could not make out one word from another, and I went to bed, love, and so passed Saturday afternoon. In the past Saturday afternoons used to be spent so happily, for a year ago we spent them together at our own, own home. In the winter before that I used always to go to the French Hotel to fetch you to go the paper hunts and before starting we always enjoyed ourselves. Then the summer before that we used to go for drives and stop at our tree near the Point, and the happiness we felt at being in one another's society! And then we always met in the Gardens and then we all took — to —. [The letter continued in this affectionate strain for several pages referring to previous meetings, and asking the receiver to answer the letter in detail and not destroy it until she had done so. It proposed that the receiver should arrange to be at the window of the school at certain times, so that the writer might be able to see her, if only for a few minutes. Reference was also made to a toy for H—, which the petitioner was not to know had been purchased at a certain store by the

writer.] Love, it is striking 12 and you are about to take your tiffin now. I hope you are having your tiffin at the French School. I will go as usual to the Club and get my weekly blow-out. After tiffin, darling. I will come and look for you. I shall be afraid to lay down for fear of going to sleep and missing 4.30 prayers, and waking up to find it is 3 p.m. I really have nothing to forgive you for, darling, so don't keep asking me to forgive you. It makes me feel a brute and a tyrant, and I hope I am neither, love, am I? I will now dress and then say our prayers. At 12.45 I go to the Club on Sunday for tiffin. I cannot endure my own lonely society. When I think of the past it makes me cry. Good-bye my own darling, darling wife, my own, own wife and my wife alone. Good-bye and may you be better and stronger, and may God grant you his blessing. Amen. . . . It is indeed sad, very, very, sad darling, I cannot write, still I must have patience and see if I can see you at 5.30 p.m. Oh, my darling, my darling, my heart is fit to break. I feel as if my heart had left its proper place and gone into my month. It is a beastly feeling, love. . . . Why should we be punished, love, in this way, simply for loving one another. May God grant you happy days. Amen. . . . Darling, I was indeed glad to see you looking so nice and pretty, and, darling. I could not smile in return, for the wretched Nun kept looking at me, and I almost felt sure she asked to know who I was and I think you shook your head, love, and said you did not know. Is that not so, darling? Tell me love. Partly on this account I did not drive round in a ricksha and pass you a second time, and partly it was because I saw him and — going over the bridge to the school. . . . I am having most unhappy times without you. I am always and always thinking of you when I am alone, and I make most stupid mistakes. I was sitting down doing nothing in particular but thinking of you at the Club, when a man touched me on the shoulder and asked me if I would take a drink, and I said "Yes, darling." And then I blushed, for I felt all the blood go to my head, but fortunately this friend made no comment on my saying "Yes, darling." It is very fortunate I did not say "Yes, Maud." Still it only shows you how I love you. . . . I am glad you asked me to send Burgundy instead of claret, I prefer you to take Burgundy, it is more strengthening and more blood-making. Finish up the claret first and when you have finished the claret go for the Burgundy. Don't give this away as it is expensive and I cannot afford to supply your friends with it. You, of course, are different, because you are mine and I am yours, and what is mine is yours. I would not grudge spending thousands on you if I had them. . . . In the meantime pray to God that I may strike oil, and go away somewhere, love, and take you with me. Do you pray to God to prosper me, darling, as well as to unite us. Pray that I may have a job somewhere other than Shanghai, or that we may win the big prize in the Manila Lottery or even the second or third prize, love. . . . Many men love women, but as soon as the men are asked to put their hands in their pockets the love ceases. Not so me, darling, for I spend money on you right and left and even get things that you have never asked for. Why? Because I truly love you and look upon you as my wife. The letter went on to refer to the respondent taking certain medicines in large doses, alluded to money matters, and urged her not to be "bossed" by the Sisters at the convent.]

THE POSITION IN THE GULF OF PECHILI.

The following telegrams "from Chinese sources" appear in the *N. C. Daily News*:—
Shanhaikuan, 20th March.

Coast forts telegraphed at noon to-day that five large men-of-war, painted a grey colour, had been observed cruising about forty li off the south-east coast. Later on in the afternoon another telegram was received reporting that plenty of smoke could be seen on the southern horizon, apparently proceeding from steamers, but so far off that they could not make out number, description or nationality. Everything was prepared, however, to meet contingencies. Nine battalions infantry, eleven ying cavalry (Manchu) and two batteries horse artillery were at once despatched, upon receipt of news, to

reinforce coast troops to prevent landing of the enemy on the coast at Shanhaikuan.

Tientsin, 21st March.

Ch'ikou telegram was received last night stating that a fishing junk had just come in reporting to have seen nine large men-of-war and six torpedo boats belonging to the enemy approach and anchor, in the afternoon, at a point thirty-six li south-east of the forts. There was, however, no landing made. Also Taku telegram received in the afternoon announcing the presence of thirteen large ships and eight small ones, cruising some ten miles beyond Taku bar. Supposed to be enemy's ships.

HONGKONG.

There has been a prolific crop of important events during the week. The coolie strike, which commenced on Saturday, has been a source of considerable annoyance and inconvenience, but happily no disturbance has accompanied it. The Government has assumed a determined attitude in regard to the lodging house keepers, who have provoked the stoppage, and a Bill has been passed by the Legislative Council which will insure the law in regard to them being carried out in a more effective manner. On the 22nd inst. the Council passed a Bill to regulate the issue of bank notes in the colony; a Bill amending and consolidating the law relating to the carriage and possession of deadly weapons was read a second time; and the Sanitary Board by-laws, with one exception, were adopted. Mr. A. J. Leach, Acting Attorney-General, leaves the colony shortly, having been appointed to a Puisne Judgeship in the Straits. A full report of the paper read by Hon. T. H. Whitehead, M.L.C., on the silver question in London on 12th February, was published on Saturday. On Sunday night a fire broke out in Bonham Strand, and four shops were gutted. On Tuesday the Legislative Council met again, when His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., announced that the Secretary of State had been pleased to appoint Mr. J. H. Stewart Lockhart Colonial Secretary. A Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Public Health Act of 1887 in relation in Common Lodging Houses received the sanction of the Council and passed into law. Judgment was delivered in the Supreme Court in the Tang Kit Shang v. Ng Pak To case. The dollar continues its upward tendency.

The Stewards of the Hongkong Jockey Club have decided to increase the added money of the Hongkong Derby at the 1895 meeting to \$1,000, and by-law No. 10 has been altered to read "Height for ponies 14 hands 3 inches and under."

A steerage passenger, travelling under the name of F. J. Smith, but believed to be Timothy Carr, a deserter from the U.S.S. *Detroit*, committed suicide by jumping overboard from the British steamer *Azamor*, whilst on the voyage from Hongkong to Kobe, on the 15th inst., three days before arrival at destination.

On Saturday afternoon Mr. H. E. Wodehouse concluded the inquiry into the death of Ching Ping Kam. The deceased died in the Government Civil Hospital from injuries he received on the 19th inst. It is supposed that he became entangled in the machinery of an elevator while oiling a cog wheel at the China Sugar Refinery. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

Sir George O'Brien having retired from the Colonial service the Secretary of State for the Colonies has offered the combined posts of Colonial Secretary and Registrar-General to the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, who has accepted the appointment. Mr. Stewart-Lockhart has held the appointment of Registrar-General since 1837 and has been Acting Colonial Secretary since Sir George O'Brien's departure.

The Chinese officials near Macao have issued a notice warning the people that at Macao soldiers are being recruited for the Japanese army under pretext of emigration. Some of the notices have been posted in Portuguese territory. It will be remembered that some time ago there was some excitement at Kowloon city in connection with an allegation that recruiting for the Japanese was going on there and one man was beheaded on a charge of being concerned in the alleged recruiting. What is the meaning of this fancy that has got hold of the Chinese officials? Do they really believe the absurd tale themselves, or have they some purpose to serve by spreading it among the people?

There were 2,099 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 148 were Europeans.

W. G. Gray, who was formerly master at Kowloon College, was taken to the Supreme Court on Friday under a writ of *habeas corpus*. He is being confined in the debtors' prison in respect of a claim made by Mr. Ferguson, of Quarry Bay, and yesterday His Honour Mr. A. G. Wise, Acting Puisne Judge, had before him another case in which Gray was the defendant. The plaintiff was Tak Cheung, and the amount claimed was \$123.20. Gray admitted the debt, and judgment having been given for the plaintiff, the defendant was escorted back by a warder to his prison quarters.

On Monday night a fire occurred at 212, Queen's Road West, a Chinese tea house. On the arrival of the brigade just before nine o'clock it was found that the fire had obtained a good hold of the second and third storeys. The firemen, under Mr. H. E. Wodehouse, very soon got to work, and fortunately succeeded in confining the flames to the one house. The premises on either side, however, were damaged by water. The tea house is insured in the Japan Insurance Co. for \$3,000. The origin of the fire is not known.

On Friday afternoon Mr. J. I. Plummer, M.A., of the Observatory, delivered a lecture at the Odd Volumes Society's Room on meteors. Mr. Skerchley presided, and amongst those present was His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson. The lecturer dealt with his subject in a very interesting manner and the paper was listened to with much attention. At the conclusion a vote of thanks was passed on the motion of Colonel Mulloy, passed to Mr. Plummer. It was announced that Mr. Brown was unable, owing to pressure of other duties, to continue as Secretary, and the Council had elected Mr. Purcell in his place.

The minstrel troupe attached to H.M.S. *Centurion* won considerable praise last week. The troupe gave two performances at the City Hall in aid of the widow of D. Edwards, a seaman who was washed overboard during the voyage of the *Centurion* from Shanghai to Hongkong. There was a good audience at each performance, and a substantial sum will doubtless be handed over to the deceased seaman's widow. The programme was a very lengthy one, but it was not at all wearisome as most minstrel performances are. The part songs and also the individual efforts of the Company well merited the loud applause of the audience, and the jokes of the corner men could not fail to provoke roars of laughter. We should also like to add a word of praise to the extremely picturesque appearance of the blackened group, and it can safely be said that many professional minstrel troupes do not present such a striking show as the *Centurion* troupe did.

On Saturday afternoon Messrs. C. F. A. Sangster and George Grimble gave an organ recital at Union Church to inaugurate the renovated organ. The church was well filled and it is almost needless to say that the performance was thoroughly appreciated by every one present. Mrs. Hagen was in splendid voice, and she sang the recitative "Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened" and the air "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd," from Handel's "Messiah," in a most accomplished manner. Mr. D. K. Sliman also contributed very ably to the vocal part of the performance. The following was the programme:—

Overture (To "Samson")	Handel.
Canzone	Gullmant.
Andante No. 2	Batiste.
Recit. "Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened."	
Air "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd."	Handel.

(Messiah) Handel.

Rondo	Schroeter.
"The Lost Chord"	Sullivan.
Recit. "Ye people, rend your hearts."	
Air "If with all your hearts" (Elijah)	Mendelssohn.

March (From Cantata, "The Victory of Judah after the Captivity")	Shinn.
Hallelujah	(Engeddi "To the Mount of Olives")
	Beethoven.

The recital had its amusing side. At the end of one of the numbers the coolie who was blowing the organ suddenly decided to bolt, and the organists were in a somewhat awkward predicament. A gentleman, however, offered his services during the rest of the recital, and it is unnecessary to say they were gratefully accepted. Yesterday morning the coolie sent in a polite "notice to leave," written in English!

Performances of Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" are advertised for the 4th and 6th April. The leasehold property at 31, 33, 35, and 37, First Street, which was offered for sale by auction by Mr. Armstrong on Friday, was withdrawn, the reserve not being reached.

The Portuguese transport *Africa* left on Thursday for Macao. She was timed to leave Macao on the 25th inst. for Portugal via the Cape and will take 450 Chinese emigrants for S. Thomé, for tea plantations there.

In the Supreme Court on Friday His Honour Mr. W. M. Goodman, Acting Chief Justice, had again before him the petition in bankruptcy filed by S. I. Danby. On the application of Mr. Philippo the case was again adjourned for a week. It was stated that Mr. Danby was ill.

Captain Sim, of the *Strathaven*, was summoned at the Police Court on Friday, before Commander W. C. H. Hastings, for leaving the waters of the colony on the 4th inst. with sixteen passengers in excess of his port clearance. The defendant pleaded that he was ignorant of the regulations. A fine of \$25 was imposed. A similar fine was imposed upon the charterers, Tung Kee & Co., for allowing the boat to leave.

About nine o'clock on Saturday night Sergeant Scott sustained somewhat severe injuries to his left arm and hand. He was in the bath room at the Central Police Station when he slipped, and in reaching out to save himself he put his arm through a window. He received three or four nasty cuts, and after being temporarily attended by a comrade he was taken to the Government Civil Hospital, where his injuries were dressed.

The blue funnel steamer *Titan* arrived at Shanghai on the 16th inst., having had the misfortune to lose her propeller on the way up from Hongkong. It seems she anchored off Gutzlaff in a snowstorm, but on attempting to proceed it was found that the propeller was either gone or loose. She was picked up by the *Soochow* and towed to Woosung, and then brought on to Shanghai by the tug-boats *Fuhle*, *Samson*, and *Reckel*. Her cargo for Japan was to be transhipped to the *Ajaz*.

The Hon. A. J. Leach, now Acting Attorney-General here, has been appointed to a Puisne Judgeship in the Straits. Mr. Leach's many friends will congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition of his services to the Government in this colony and the Straits may also be congratulated on having secured such a good man for the judicial bench. Mr. Leach has at various times held the acting appointments of Attorney-General and Puisne Judge in Hongkong and has filled each of them with credit to himself and satisfaction to the public and the bar.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Pawha*, which had been ashore near Nanking since December, was floated a few days ago, and returned to Shanghai on the 21st inst.

The sealing schooner *George Peabody* is reported a total wreck off Ishinomaki, near Oginohama. The master and crew have arrived at Yokohama.

The death is announced in the Japanese native press, with deep regret, of Viscount Inouye Ki, ex-Minister of Education, which took place at his residence, Tokyo, on the 16th inst.

A Yokohama telegram of the 18th inst. to the *Mercury* states that Marshal Prince Komatsu has been ordered to proceed to the front as Commander-in-Chief of all the Japanese armies.

The Englishmen of Shanghai have decided to celebrate St. George's Day by an entertainment at Chang Su-ho's garden on the same lines as that of last year, which proved so great a success.

The northern transports *Leayuen* and *Toonan* have, the *China Gazette* says, been "bought" by a British employé of the China Merchants and are to go under "the flag that braved" etc. forthwith.

Mr. J. W. Jamieson, Registrar of British Shipping at Shanghai, has held an enquiry into the circumstances attending the drowning of one of the crew of the *Subastian Bach* in the Java Sea. From the evidence it appears that the sailor was in the mizzen rigging hauling on a rope, which slipped through his hands, causing him to lose his balance. He fell into the water and was drowned. Captain Hansen lowered a boat which searched for two hours, but did not succeed in finding the man.

Since the commencement of the war the N.Y.K. has engaged over 2,000 sailors for its newly purchased steamers.

The British steamer *Rosary*, with machinery, having been detained by Chang Chih-tung at Nanking, in the vain hope, the *N. C. Daily News* says, of getting the people to take up cotton mills at that city, has now proceeded to Wuchang, her original destination, to discharge her cotton machinery there.

The members of the last peace mission to Japan were not allowed to communicate with their Government by telegram. More freedom seems to have been allowed to Li Hung-chang, a Peking telegram of the 22nd inst. to the *Mercury* stating that numerous telegrams were passing between Viceroy Li Hung-chang at Shimonoseki and the Court officials at Peking.

At the St. Patrick's Ball at Shanghai the decorations, we read, were most effective, and several novel features were introduced, notably a very realistic mud cabin, with a pig and a couple of roosters in possession; and a real Irish *Shubreen* bearing the sign, "The Bog-Trotter's Retreat," the proprietor of which, Fionn McCoul, informed his customers that he was licensed to permit a moderate amount of intoxication on the premises.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News*, writing on the 12th inst., says:—The recent event of local interest is the marriage of Miss Elsie Detring to Major von Hanneken. The civil ceremony took place yesterday and the religious at 3 o'clock this afternoon in the Church of St. Louis, at which the greater part of the foreign community was present. A reception was held at the house of the bride's parents from 5 to 7, which was also largely attended.

The majority of the crews of the war vessels captured at Weihaiwei by the Japanese Navy are Foochow men. When they surrendered they gave their parole on being released not to join any belligerent force against the Japanese. The Canton brought to Sharp Peak 387 and the *Wycliffe* 283 of these men. What these poor fellows will do, the *Echo* says, only the future will tell us. The Chinese government are advancing them only a month's wages on being disbanded.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* says:—Fugitives from Kinohow are streaming into Shan-hai-kuan. They report the Japanese rapidly advancing, driving Suug and Wu before them. Fugitives state they have left their families behind because the Japanese take rice from the Chinese troops and feed the people with it. The men fly because many of them have been soldiers and fear the Japanese will shoot them. From this it appears the Japanese intend to advance overland clearing the Chinese entirely out of southern Manchuria. Moukden is quite cut off, and probably lost. Four so-called "Korean priests" were taken as spies at Shan-hai-kuan and are now in prison.

Referring to the severe weather experienced in Shanghai a week ago the *China Gazette* of the 16th inst. says:—The weather which we have been experiencing for the past twenty-four hours has been almost arctic in its severity. The snow ceased falling yesterday evening, but it recommenced this morning twice as heavily, and continued nearly all day to descend in a steady shower, so that by noon there was nearly a foot of snow upon the ground. Snowballing was of course resumed as soon as people began to go around, and several pitched battles took place on the Bund in the course of the afternoon. The proceedings, though a little rough at times, were carried on with the utmost good humour and nobody was hurt. By far the most serious occurrence in connection with the snowstorm has been the collapse of one of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's godowns in Whang-poo Road. It was a large galvanised iron structure, directly opposite the Austro-Hungarian Consulate, and such was the weight of the snow that accumulated on the roof that the whole building caved in this morning at 11.30. The cargo in the building is fortunately not of a nature to be much damaged by the occurrence, as it consists chiefly of seaweed and cotton yarn in bales. Our streets present exactly the same appearance that they did during the severe winter of 1892. In that year, however, the heavy snowfall occurred much earlier and was accompanied by much more severe cold. It is many years since there has been so much snow in Shanghai at such an advanced season as the present.

On the 9th inst. twenty-one Chinese carts containing one hundred and twenty cases, covered in yellow calico, passed through the Victoria Road, Tientsin. It appears, says the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, that these cases came from Peking and were full of presents from the Emperor to be offered by the Viceroy to the Mikado on his arrival in Japan.

The majority of the pawnshops in Tientsin, the *Mercury* says, have had to close their doors, as owing to the approach of the enemy everybody is anxious to realise cash for their belongings, and as a consequence, the money at their disposal is all used. The rate of interest has been raised, and if the war ceases without their being burnt out great profit will be the result.

Private advices from Tientsin, we learn from the *N. C. Daily News*, state that Major von Hanneken will leave China for Europe immediately after his marriage to Miss Detring. There has been some trouble with the Chinese authorities, who are evidently averse to allowing Major von Hanneken a free hand in the military reforms he was to have instituted.

The Chinese authorities pretend, the *N. C. Daily News* says, to have detected several Japanese spies in Formosa disguised as Buddhist itinerant priests, and have in consequence decreed the expulsion of the whole of the fraternity from the island, several of them having already been sent off to the mainland in returning junks. It is believed that other provinces will also follow suit, though it is now rather late in the day for such precautionary measures.

The British schooners *Agnes Macdonald*, Capt. Cutler, and *E. B. Marvin*, Capt. Byers, arrived at Yokohama from Victoria on the 7th inst. The two schooners, the *Japan Gazette* says, left Victoria together on January 12th, and although they did not sight each other on the way across they entered the bay together 51 days after sailing. The *Macdonald* got the best of the run up the bay and anchored three hours before the *Marvin*. Both vessels report having experienced very rough and very calm weather on the voyage. The *Macdonald* only made 200 miles in ten days, while the *Marvin's* worst run was 400 miles in fourteen days. One day while the schooner was becalmed the *Macdonald's* men enjoyed a spell of turtle fishing. That both schooners also experienced bad weather is shown by the fact that the *Marvin* had her foretopmast carried away and the *Macdonald* her mainmast.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Canton and Macao	7,597,185	8,178,734
Amoy	772,692	765,866
Foochow	13,777,348	21,329,281
Shanghai and Hankow	21,591,498	25,514,030
	43,738,723	55,787,911

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Canton	3,547,932	1,349,192
Amoy	19,447,739	21,321,332
Foochow	8,140,519	5,883,106
Shanghai	25,783,527	24,176,826
	56,919,717	52,730,456

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	22,555,223	21,619,462

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Yokohama	28,757,757	28,623,687
Kobe	16,322,015	17,082,762
	45,079,772	45,706,439

SILK.

CANTON, 26th March.—Teatles and Re-reels.—No stock and no quotations. Filatures—Have continued in fair general enquiry, especially during the first part of the fortnight. Business has been checked latterly by the steadily advancing Exchange, equivalent to a difference on laying

Turkey Red Shirts—1½ to 5lbs.	1.30 to 2.70
Brocades—Dyed	3.90 to 4.95
	per yard
Damasks	0.13 to 0.17
Chintzes—Assorted	3.07 to 0.12
Velvets—Black, 22 in.....	0.21 to 0.32
Velveteens—18 in.	0.13 to 0.24
	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.45 to 0.85
WOOLLENS	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.55 to 0.85
German	0.95 to 1.10
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	1.20 to 2.60

Long Ella—Scarlet	per piece	6.50 to 7.80
Assorted	6.60 to 7.90	
Camlets—Assorted	14.00 to 29.00	
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted	13.50 to 21.00	
Orleans—Plain	3.70 to 4.90	
Blankets—8 to 12lbs.	per pair	4.50 to 9.00
METALS	per picul	
Iron—Nail Rod	3.20 to	
Square, Flat Round Bar	3.15 to 3.20	
Swedish Bar	4.75 to	
Small Round Rod	3.55 to	
Hoop	4.60 to	
Old Wire Rope	3.00 to	
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	nominal.	
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz.	per case	26.00 to
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.	25.50 to	
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	25.25 to	
Japan Copper	24.50 to	
Tin	37.00 to	
Tin-Plates	per box	6.00 to
Steel	per cwt. case	5.50 to
SUNDRIES	per picul	
Quicksilver	11.50 to	
Window Glass	per box	3.15 to
Kerosene Oil	per 10-gal. case	1.87 to 1.88

SHANGHAI, 21st March. —(From Mr. G. W. Noel's report.)—The trade is in a decidedly mixed state at present, but despite all its ominous surroundings it is by no means devoid of life yet, the spirit of speculation being still rife. True, so far as the north is concerned, there is the greatest anxiety prevailing, and orders have been received from Tientsin to stop shipments thither, as the Japanese are exercising the right of searching vessels outside, and, as it is pretty well understood that they have every occasion to do so, the dealers wish to avoid the complications that might arise. Apart from that, however, they find it almost impossible to sell anything there on the cash terms they of necessity are compelled to impose, so that business is virtually at a standstill. But there are some who are willing to risk a little on the chance of a successful termination of the third Peace Mission, and, assisted by the sudden upward movement of exchange, which always seems to come at the most inopportune moment, they have been picking up parcels both from stock and to arrive on favourable terms, ostensibly for the River markets and Ningpo, but no doubt these could be diverted should occasion arise. It is still uncertain when the steamers will be despatched to Newchwang, as no produce has been brought down from the country for export. As usual in this sort of market sellers are not over anxious to have their transactions published, fearing that any concession they may have made will have an adverse effect on the position; it must be understood, therefore, that the sales reported do not anything like represent the business done—not that the total can have been of very large proportions. The anxiety displayed by many indentors of the heavy Shirtings that have been sold to Japan to obtain delivery of the goods may, by some, be looked upon as an indication of the activity of that market; it is not so, however, but simply to avoid having their sub-contracts cancelled on account of late delivery, the market really being glutted with goods. The rise of 3 per cent that has taken place in exchange during the last few days has naturally been taken advantage of by the dealers and lower prices have been paid, which is especially noticeable at the Auctions. The Manchester market is reported strong and advancing, quotations for standard makes being up again within the last few days, though some goods in stock are still obtainable as before. This rise is supposed to be in sympathy with Cotton, but speculation is probably at the bottom of it really; however, it seems to have awakened the cupidity of some of the buyers of China, fairly large orders being in the market for this. The markets in the States are also higher, the advance in Sheetings being equal to about threepence; Drills not quite so much.

Metals—(From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report.)—21st March.—There has not been much moving in Lead; according to one of the papers some 500 tons Australian arrived last week to be turned into bullets! Stocks are about 300 tons L.B. and 1,200 to 1,300 tons Australian, and sales of a retail character at quotations. Pig Iron has arrived in large quantities, and is mostly taken up by the Arsenal. 200 tons Sohlers Nailrods, "to arrive," are reported booked at 102/-. There is very little doing in Bar and Hoop Iron, and also Iron Wire is quite neglected. Old Iron.—Sales on record

are:—100 tons Boiler Plates at Tls. 1.60; 30 tons Horse-shoes, Old London Cargo, at Tls. 1.60, and 550 piculs Ship Plates at Tls. 1.45. Shipments North of all descriptions are of small proportions, while the surrounding districts and the river ports are taking the usual quantities.

WEDNESDAY, 27th March.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON. —	
Telegraphic Transfer	2 0 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	2 0 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 day's sight	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2 1 1/4
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2 1 1/4
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2 1 1/4
ON PARIS. —	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.61
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.67
ON GERMANY. —	
On Demand	2.11
ON NEW YORK. —	
Banks Bills, on demand	50 1/2
Credits, 60 day's sight	52
ON BOMBAY. —	
Telegraphic Transfer	189 1/2
Bank, on demand	189 1/2
ON CALCUTTA. —	
Telegraphic Transfer	189 1/2
Bank, on demand	189 1/2
ON SHANGHAI. —	
Banks, at sight	71 1/4
Private, 30 day's sight	72 1/4
ON YOKOHAMA. —	
On demand	1/2 % pm.
ON MANILA. —	
On demand	10 % pm., nom.
ON SINGAPORE. —	
On demand	1/2 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	9.45
GO D LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	49 50

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 27th March.—The chief feature of the market during the week under review has been a nearly general further rise in rates. Business has been fairly active and in some stocks lively. At time of closing market is quieter but steady.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have continued to boom, chiefly in sympathy with a rapid rise in London from £33 10s. to £38 15s., and a fair number of shares have changed hands at various rates between 145 and 174 per cent. prem., market closing steady at latter rate. Nationals have been dealt in in a somewhat large quantity at \$21, and close steady at that.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have improved their position with sales at \$67. Unions have changed hands at \$157 1/2. Straits at \$20 ex div., and Yangtszes at \$100. North-Chinas have also improved to \$212 1/2.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have found buyers at \$175 to \$176 and Chinas are still enquired for at quotation without finding sellers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macaos have continued to improve and sales have been effected at \$30, \$31, \$32, and \$33, closing with sellers at latter rate. Indo-Chinas have found buyers at \$43, \$44, and \$45, closing steady. Douglas's have continued to rule weak with sales at \$48 and \$49, closing with sellers at latter and buyers at former rate.

REFINERIES.—A fair business has been put through in Chinas Sugars at \$135, market closing steady. Luzons after small sales at \$18 have again subsided, and sellers rule the market.

MINING.—Balmorals have been the feature in the market, and a large number of shares have changed hands at \$5 90, \$6, \$6 25, \$6.50, \$6.75, \$7, and \$7.25; at time of writing market is steady at \$6 75 to \$7. Punjoms have changed hands in small lots at \$6, and Raubs at \$4 to \$4 25. Other mining stock has ruled neglected.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have improved to \$7 with sales, and Watsons have changed hands at \$9 1/2. Docks have been in good demand, and the rate rapidly rose without sales to 89 per cent. prem., at which rate and later at \$90 and \$91 a few shares have changed hands. Lands have continued in favour, and, although a little weakness was apparent in the middle of the week, have changed hands in fair quantities at \$57, and close steady at \$57 to \$57 1/2. West Points have found investing buyers at \$15 on the open market, and Kowloon Wharfs have been dealt in at \$37, \$38, and \$39 in fair quantities.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks.		[& buys]
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	174 p. ct. pm., sales
China, Japan, &c...	\$25.0	nom.
Do., Founders.....	\$1	nom.
Nat. Bank of Ch.		
B. Shares.....	\$8	\$21, sales
Foun. Shares.....	\$1	n. m.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	\$1	\$10
Do.	\$15	\$8.75, sales & buyers
Brown & Co., H. G...	\$50	\$44, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$2
China Borneo	\$55	nom.
China Sugar	\$100	\$135, sales
Chinese Loan '86 E., Tls. 250		11 p. ct. pm.
Dakin, Cruicks'k & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$5.25, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$15, buyers
Green Island Cement	\$50	\$74, buyers
H. Brick & Cement.	\$12.50	\$44, sales
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas.	\$10	\$125, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$8	\$4.75, sale & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways.	\$100	\$65, sales
Hongkong Ice.....	\$25	\$76
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$39, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$121, ex div. sales
H. & W. Dock.....	\$125	91 p. ct. pm., buyers
Hotels.		
Hongkong Hotel...	\$50	\$9, buyers
Shamoen	\$20	\$4
Insurances.		
Canton	\$50	\$160, sales & sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$78, buyers
China Traders' ...	\$25	\$67, sales
Hongkong Fire ...	\$50	\$175
North-China	\$25	Tls. 212 1/2, buyers
Straits Marine.....	\$20	\$20, ex div. sales &
Union	\$5	\$157 1/2, buyers [b'ys]
Yangtsze	\$60	\$100, sales & buyers
Land & Building.		
H. Land Investm't	\$50	\$57 1/2, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$9, buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9 1/2, ex div.
West Point Buildg.	\$40	\$15, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$48, sales & sellers
Mining.		
New Balmoral.....	\$3	\$7, sales & sellers
Charbonnages	\$131.58	\$75, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$4.25
Punjom	\$3 1/2	\$6, sales
Do. (Preference)	\$1	\$1.75
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$4.25, sales
Steamship Coys.		
China & Manila ...	\$50	\$60, ex div. sellers
Douglas S. S. Co...	\$50	\$49, sales & sellers
H., Canton, & M...	\$20	\$33, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N...	\$10	\$43, sales
W'chai Wareh'se Co.	\$37 1/2	\$37 1/2
Watson & Co., A. S...	\$10	\$9.50, sales & buyers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 22nd March:—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—On the 19th shares were placed locally at 141 and 143 per cent. premium, and from Hongkong at 145 per cent. premium, which is equal to 142 1/2 and 73. A strong demand then set in, and shares were placed at 155 per cent. premium. Our latest quotation from Hongkong quotes buyers at 160. At this rate shares would cost 157 1/2 and 73 laid down here. National Bank of China.—There are sellers of shares at \$20 1/2 ex div. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were placed at Tls. 130 cum div. Indo-China S. N. shares are wanted at Tls. 29 and held for Tls. 30. Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat shares have been sold at \$29. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have been sold at Tls. 135, and they are wanted. Marine Insurance.—North-Chinas have been placed at Tls. 205 and Tls. 202 1/2, and Yangtszes at \$58 to \$100. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs were placed at \$145 ex dividend. Wharfs.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares changed hands at Tls. 266 1/2 and Kowloon Wharf shares were placed from Hongkong at \$35 1/2. Cargo Boats.—Shanghais were sold at Tls. 142 1/2, and Co-operatives at Tls. 130. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks shares were sold at Tls. 172 1/2 cum dividend, Perak Sugar Cultivation shares at Tls. 30, Hall & Holtz shares at \$18, Shanghai Land Investment shares, Tls. 30 paid up, at Tls. 38 1/2, Hongkong Land Investment shares at \$55, \$56, and \$57, Major Brothers shares at Tls. 25, Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares at Tls. 410 cum dividend and Tls. 390 ex dividend, and Shanghai-Lankat Tobacco shares at Tls. 95. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment Company's six per cent. Debentures have been placed at par. Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—155 per cent. prem.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited.—Nominal.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, Founders.—Nominal.

National Bank of China, Ltd., A.—\$20.

National Bank of China, Ltd., B.—Nominal.

National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—Nom.

Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 130 per sh.

Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 25 per sh.

China Mutual S. N. Co.—252.20 per share.

Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 80 per sh.

Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$20 per share.

Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$53 per share.

Shanghai Dock Co.—Tls. 550 per share.

Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 300 per share.

Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 150 per share.

S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 135 per share.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—83 per cent. premium.

China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$65 per share.

North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 202 per share.

Union Ins. Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$150 per share.

Yangtze Insc. Assoc., Ltd.—\$100 per share.

Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$155 per share.

Straits Insurance Co., Limited.—\$221 per share.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$176 per sh.

China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$77 per share.

Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 256 per share.

Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 37 per share.

Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$351 per share.

Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 1 per share.

Panjon Mining Co., Ltd.—\$6 per share.

Panjon Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares—\$11 per share.

Jelebu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$41 per sh.

Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$3.90 p. sh.

Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 1421 per share.

Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 130 per sh.

Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 200 per share.

Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$4 per share.

Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 1721 p. sh.

Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 30 p. sh.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$160 per sh.

Luxon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$48 per share.

Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$18 per share.

Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.—Tls. 841 per share.

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$561 p. sh.

J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$371 per share.

Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 331 per sh.

Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 25 per share.

Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 390 p. sh.

Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 95 per share.

Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.

Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 1171 per share.

A. S. Watson & Co., Limited.—\$91 per share.

L'Hotel des Colonies—Tls. 20.

China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company Debentures.—Nominal.

Lycett Theatre Debentures.—Tls. 12.

Chinese Imp. Gov. Loan, 1886, E.—Tls. 250 (a).

Shanghai Municipal Debentures.—Tls. 100.

Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 100 (a).

Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 94 (a).

(a) Exclusive of accrued interest.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 27th March.—During the past fortnight our freight market has again continued active and a very fair number of settlements is on record, principally, as in last report, from Saigon to Hongkong.

For this voyage there is a fairly strong demand and rates may be quoted as 19 cents for large carriers and 22/23 cents for small boats. From Saigon to Amoy two fixtures are reported at good rates and there is a further demand at 28 cents. To Sourabaya 28 cents is the best offer obtainable at present.

From Bangkok to Hongkong 221 cents has been paid for loading, all outside the bar, but the demand has fallen off and rates close weak at 20/25 cents.

Coal freights from Japan remain quiet, \$2 being the rate offered for Hongkong. For Swatow, however, a boat could probably be fixed at \$2.50 per ton.

There is no enquiry yet for Newchwang and according to latest advices from that port there is not likely to be any demand for some time to come.

For New York two vessels have been taken up, but with very long lay days, one not being despatched till the middle of June. There has also been one fixture for San Francisco.

There is but one vessel disengaged in port, registering 460 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Challenger—American ship, 1,399 tons, Shanghai and Hongkong, to New York.

Sachem—American ship, 1,312 tons, Hongkong to New York, gold \$10,500 in full.

Geo. R. Skiffeld—American ship, 1,645 tons, Higo to Hongkong, gold \$12,000 in full.

Queen Margaret—British ship, 1,999 tons, Hongkong to San Francisco.

Orange Grove—British barque, 385 tons, Mantung to Singapore, \$1,100 in full.

Kitty—British barque, 803 tons, Hongkong to Bangkok and back, \$5,950 in full.

Nanking—Norwegian steamer, 545 tons, hence to Mauritius and back, \$3,500 per month.

Strathavon—British steamer, 1,740 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 191 cents per picul.

Beatrice—British steamer, 1,322 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Foyle—British steamer, 1,331 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Eze—British steamer, 1,368 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 191 cents per picul.

Benmohr—British steamer, 1,335 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19 cents per picul.

Jacob Diederichsen—German steamer, 633 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

Tenus—Norwegian steamer, 1,639 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 191 cents per picul.

Bogstad—Norwegian steamer, 1,965 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19 cents per picul.

Annandale—British steamer, 2,538 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 171 cents per picul.

Strathniven—British steamer, Saigon to Hongkong, 171 cents per picul.

Progress—German steamer, 798 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul, option Swatow, 25 cents per picul.

Presto—German steamer, 656 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul, option Amoy, 20 cents per picul.

Mathilde—German steamer, 676 tons, Saigon to Amoy, 23 cents per picul.

Tamarind—Norwegian steamer, 885 tons, Hongkong to Bangkok and back, \$7,100 in full.

Eskdale—British steamer, 1,936 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 221 cents per picul.

Eze—British steamer, 1,368 tons, monthly, 3/3 months, 74, per registered ton.

Continental—German steamer, 675 tons, monthly, 11 month (re-charter), \$5,385 per month.

Continental—German steamer, 675 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$5,200 per month.

Doris—German steamer, 808 tons, monthly, 6 months.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—Manila (str.).

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Oceana (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—Bayern (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.).

FOR MARSEILLES.—Sydney (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Victoria (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Tillie E. Starbuck, City of Peking (str.), Queen Margaret, Gaelic (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—St. David, Lucy A. Nickels, Benlarig (str.).

FOR AUSTRALIA.—Menmuir (str.).

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

March—

ARRIVALS.
20, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
20, Elax, British str., from Yokohama.
20, Brunhilde, German str., from Canton.
20, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
20, Strathavon, British str., from Saigon.
20, Myrmidon, British str., from Shanghai.
20, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.
21, Mongkut, British str., from Bangkok.
21, Mathilde, German str., from Saigon.
21, Sabine Rickmers, German str., from Amoy.
21, Oxus, French str., from Marseilles.
22, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
22, Paoting, British str., from Saigon.
22, Rio, German str., from Saigon.
22, Nanyang, German str., from Chinkiang.
22, Malacca, British str., from Shanghai.
22, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.
22, Lina, German bark, from Honolulu.
23, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
23, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
23, Tellus, Norw. str., from Saigon.
23, Pallas, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
23, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
23, Mich. Jensen, German str., from Haiphong.
23, Spondilus, British str., from Shanghai.
24, Activ, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
24, Clam, British str., from Batoum.
24, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
24, Kwanglee, British str., from Canton.
24, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
24, Port Adelaide, British str., from Moji.
24, Priok, German str., from Hamburg.
24, Pekin, British str., from Bombay.
24, Triton, German str., from Kraksan.
24, Propontis, British str., from Saigon.
24, Annandale, British str., from Samarang.
25, Canton, British str., from Shanghai.
25, Kweilin, British str., from Chinkiang.

25, Verona, British str., from Yokohama.

25, Benmohr, British str., from Saigon.

25, Continental, Dutch str., from Manila.

25, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.

25, Riversdale, British str., from Moji.

25, Rubens, British str., from Barry Dock.

26, Hong Leong, British str., from Singapore.

26, Arratoon Apear, British str., from Calcutta.

26, Hailong, British str., from Coast Ports.

26, Aden, British str., from Kobe.

26, Carmarthenshire, British str., from Moji.

26, Charon Wattana, Siam bk., from Bangkok.

26, Ravenna, British str., from Shanghai.

26, Centurion, British cruiser, from a cruise.

27, Bogstad, Norw. str., from Saigon.

27, Phra C. Klao, British str., from Bangkok.

27, Empr. of China, British str., from V'couver.

27, Azamor, British str., from Kobe.

27, Vladimir Monomach, Russian cruiser, from Singapore.

March—

DEPARTURES.

20, Taicheong, German str., for Amoy.
20, Choysang, British str., for Canton.
20, Coptic, British str., for S. Francisco.
20, Empr. of Japan, British str., for V'couver.
20, Ghazee, British str., for Shanghai.
20, Kwanglee, British str., for Canton.
20, Saghalien, French str., for Europe.
20, Sikh, British str., for Tacoma.
20, Swift, British g-bt, for Chefoo.
20, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
20, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
20, Wuotan, German str., for Amoy.
20, Coloma, Amr. bark, for San Francisco.
21, Eze, British str., for Saigon.
21, Shantung, British str., for Saigon.
21, Africa, Portuguese cruiser, for Macao.
21, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
21, Tamarind, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
21, Cromarty, British str., for Swatow.
21, Kwongmo, British str., for Amoy.
21, Phra Nang, Brit. str., for Bangkok.
21, Sarpedon, British str., for Amoy.
22, Myrmidon, British str., for Singapore.
22, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
22, Burnhilde, German str., for Kobe.
22, Chingtu, British str., for Shanghai.
22, Elax, British str., for Singapore.
22, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
22, Kong Beng, British str., for Bangkok.
22, Mathilde, German str., for Saigon.
22, Oxus, French str., for Shanghai.
23, Beatrice, British str., for Saigon.
23, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Saigon.
23, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
23, Nanyang, German str., for Canton.
23, Swatow, German str., for Hoihow.
24, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
24, Malacca, British str., for London.
24, Rio, German str., for Saigon.
24, Strathavon, British str., for Saigon.
24, Strathmore, British str., for Kobe.
24, G. C. Tobey, Amr. bk., for Singapore.
25, Redpole, British g-bt., for Bangkok.
25, Centurion, British cr., for a cruise.
25, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
25, Mongkut, British str., for Singapore.
25, Pekin, British str., for Shanghai.
25, Spondilus, British str., for London.
26, Kitty, British bark, for Bangkok.
26, Kweilin, British str., for Canton.
26, Ask, Danish str., for Pakhoi.
26, Canton, British str., for Canton.
26, Kwanglee, British str., for Swatow.
26, Spartan, British cr., for Takao.
27, Clam, British str., for Shanghai.
27, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
27, Paoting, British str., for Swatow.
27, T. E. Starbuck, Amr. sh., for San F'cisco.

AMOY.

March—

ARRIVALS.

18, Wyoliffe, British str., from Swatow.
18, Yuensang, British str., from Hongkong.
18, Pekin, British str., from Keelung.
19, Hailong, British str., from Hongkong.
19, Myrmidon, British str., from Shanghai.

March—

DEPARTURES.

18, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
18, Formosa, British str., for Tamsui.
18, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
18, Cassius, German str., for Straits.
19, Hailong, British str., for Foochow.
19, Myrmidon, British str., for Hongkong.
19, Wyoliffe, British str., for Shanghai.
19, Pekin, British str., for Tamsui.
20, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., for H'kong.